

RECREATION
Formerly THE PLAYGROUND

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— November 1934 —

Cartwright Gough
The Twentieth National Recreation Congress

The Art of Abundant Living

By Roy Smith Wallace

Living and Preparation for Life
Through Recreation

By Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt

Recreation As a Socially Useful Field
of Employment

By John Colt

Summaries of Discussion Group Meetings

The Recreation Executives Discuss Vital Problems

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Youth Today

EVERYONE is concerned to do something for youth. Two million, two hundred and fifty thousand boys and girls reach sixteen years of age each year. Comparatively few of these boys and girls go on with their studies. Most of them want work, life, adventure, romance. Work large numbers of them cannot have now, have not had for four years. So we cudgel our brains and try to think out plans of organization for youth that will be a substitute for work. Now we may as well face once and for all that for youth there is no substitute for work. Work is the only solution and work with pay.

Of course youth wants recreation—music, drama, and all forms of interesting activity. Youth is as ready as ever to contribute a measure of volunteer public service. But recreation and community and public service can never be a substitute for work with pay.

Work with pay gives status, standing, promise for the future, a chance to dream and plan. Without work the youth of 1931, 1932, 1933, 1934 look at their girls and see no opportunity to marry, to set up real homes for themselves as past generations have done. When we do not give our youth a chance to marry we pile up for ourselves future mental, physical, moral and citizenship problems.

Yet work for youth is not a problem by itself. The problem of work must be solved for all ages and all people. It cannot be solved for youth alone.

After all we live together in families. The family is the fundamental unit. Only shallow thinking would lead us to believe that to any large extent we can solve the work or the life problem by isolating youth. Youth has its contribution. Middle age and old age have theirs. Experience and maturity cannot abdicate and turn the world over to youth much as we might like to do so. All ages and all groups are in the same boat together and must get to shore together. Youth has its contribution to make with others, but it is not nearly so likely to make that contribution in isolation. Never has there been a time when there was more need for wisdom and experience and maturity to be added to daring and courage and adventure. We do as a nation most for youth when we do for the entire problem of unemployment.

Recreation and volunteer service and adventure for youth always. The task of recreation agencies truly is doubled in this emergency. But let us not claim that for youth there is any substitute for work with pay—or that there is any way out for youth that it not a way out for work for all.

Yet within the family no giving up of property is too great to save the youth within that family. The need of the youth of America this day is so great that no use of accumulated resources should be denied that will save our youth—and with them all the rest of us—from disintegration. Except as we keep life and hope in our youth our accumulated property will have no value for the future. After all caring for our youth is simple preservation of life values.

HOWARD BRAUCHER.



Courtesy Berkshire Farm for Boys, Canaan, N. Y.

The Art of Abundant Living

By ROY SMITH WALLACE
National Recreation Association

RARELY, if ever, has there been a Congress which so nearly justified the titles

and advance notices about it. The book of suggestive questions prepared in connection with the Congress was entitled "Recreation and the Abundant Life"; and the first "note" in the regular program said, "The Recreation Congress is a co-operative gathering of all those interested in recreation as a means of more abundant life." These advance descriptions turned out to be true.

Everyone spoke of the friendliness and fine spirit of the delegates in attendance at the Congress. They were full of life and play—genuine exemplars of the theme that we were talking about—rich, vital, friendly living. There was no end to their capacity for work and for play. They attended general meetings and section meetings all day, conferred in the corridors and at the meal tables, and they would burst into play at any spare moment, between sessions or after sessions. The evening play meetings were always joyous and there were several nights when an eager group would gather around Mr. Zanzig and sing and sing and sing, until one delegate said that he thought that the Recreation Congress was an organized movement to abolish sleep! And this eager, joyous spirit was something of an achievement, something of a conquest, for a large number of the delegates to this Congress—presumably a larger number than ever before—had had their salaries cut, were working with reduced budgets, had come at their own expense. Twenty-two delegates from New Hampshire and groups from several cities were there entirely on their own funds. Yet they were all zestful and happy, keen to give and to get all possible help.

The Wardman Park Hotel was an admirable setting for the Congress, its wide and long corridors affording the freest opportunity for informal conversation and questioning. It would sometimes take from twenty minutes to an hour to walk the length of the lobby, not only because it was long but because there were so many people

eager to talk with one another, to exchange experiences and to help carry one another's burden.

It should be said, too, that the local committee on arrangements was very hospitable and cordial, and that the tours and expeditions were numerous and were greatly enjoyed. Tribute, too, should be paid to the management of the Congress for the operation of an exceedingly smooth-running series of meetings for which every detail of service had been foreseen and carefully worked out so that without effort and without apparent machinery everything went perfectly.

A Truly Representative Gathering

The Congress was a National Congress. All sections of our country and of Canada were represented, and I think never before has there been so heterogeneous a group in attendance. There was a large influx of relief workers from city, county and state, many of them attending for the first time and all eager to get the most from the Congress. Then there were many workers in the bureaus of the federal government who came not merely to appear on the program, but again and again to listen to and participate in general and individual discussions. Many representatives of other agencies interested in the general recreation field, not only the partly recreational agencies such as the Scouts, youth organizations and the settlements but also the Child Study Association, the Parent-Teacher Associations, the American Federation of Arts and others were present. And there were, of course, as the regular nucleus of the convention, the executive and staff workers of the municipal recreation systems and the board members guiding and directing their work, these latter in larger numbers than usual. Many of the city delegates, too, were there for the first time, younger and newly appointed staff members who had not been able to get to Los Angeles and who had come into the movement since the Toronto convention. So the spirit of friendliness and hospitality was especially important for them.

In this statement Mr. Wallace has outlined briefly the predominant features, characteristics and spirit of the Twentieth National Recreation Congress. Detailed reports of discussion meetings and many of the addresses will be found in this and succeeding issues of *Recreation*.

The great characteristic of all this heterogeneous, cooperative group, however, aside from the friendliness and the enjoyment of one another, was that they were all eager for information, knowledge and support, for sharing of experience. They were all conscious of facing in these troublous days a new set of facts—of relief administrations, state, county and federal, actively engaged in recreational activities; of adult education on an enriched basis indistinguishable from our own field; of self-initiated activity in these days of excess normal and enforced leisure; of emergence into prominence of great and varied leisure time interests—music, art, craft, drama—long familiar, but only half-heartedly recognized as genuine and major recreational responsibilities. And they were all, together, sharing the spirit of the pioneer, all experimental, all on the same plane—technicians and laymen, local and national, public and private—all seeking help and ability for greater service in the recreation field.

Federal Agencies Take a Prominent Part

It would probably be true to say that never before has there been such an understanding between the total forces of the recreation movement, public and private, local and national throughout the country, and the federal bureaus working in or touching upon this field. With the scene of the Congress laid in Washington, it was possible to have there not as perfunctory speakers, but as genuine participants in the "cooperative gathering" representatives of the Department of State, of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration, of the Office of Education, of the Bureau of Biological Survey, of the Federal Power Commission, of the National Parks Service, of the Civilian Conservation Corps, of the Extension Service of the Department of Agriculture, of the Forest Service, of the Children's Bureau, of the Tennessee Valley Authority and the National Resources Board, as well as the First Lady of the Land herself.

The result of all this wide representativeness was that the picture presented was perhaps more nearly a total picture of all that was going on in the whole field of enrichment of living than we have ever had before. A great work is being done—by private agencies, by federal, state and local governments with all their various bureaus and ramifications, by the departments of education, by recreation departments, by parks, by relief, by adult education, by self-organized groups, and by individuals. Everywhere there were great interest,

keen realization of the need for recreational services and genuine recognition that human beings are the same now as ever only with more time on their hands during which they can do interesting and enjoyable things. There was realization, too, of the need, in all the various experimental activities now being carried on, for the old wisdom, the tested experience of those agencies and workers in the field for a long time and with ability to serve and guide and help in this time of new recognition and new demands.

Indeed the expressions of thanks to the National Recreation Association by representatives of private agencies and of governmental agencies in both the national and state field were so frequent, so complete as to be almost embarrassing. It almost seemed as though the speakers had been urged to pay tribute to the Association or as if only those speakers who would say nice things about the Association had been put on the program! The thanks, however, though almost embarrassing, came from individuals who were so well informed, who could cite specific instances with names and dates and places as to help received, that it all did sound perfectly plausible and true. And it showed a wide range of activities, a keen alertness for opportunity for service on the part not only of the National Recreation Association but of the recreation movement and the workers in this field. Otto Mallery, presiding at one of the evening meetings, made public acknowledgment that the National Recreation Association, though technically a public service corporation with membership, etc., was not merely the Board of Directors or the paid staff of the Association, but that it considered itself and should honestly be considered as just the cooperative effort of all those eager to share their experience and judgment and skill in this great field of community recreation.

All Share in the Program

The program was far less technical than most programs prepared for the National Recreation Congress. Everyone, therefore, seemed to be equally at home in the discussion—board members, staff members, technicians, representatives of private agencies and of public agencies. The Congress was genuinely seeking "opportunities for creative experience"—a real all-round rich program serving a great variety of individuals of all ages and conditions of life. It was not a Congress on children's play nor a Congress on adult recrea-

tion. It was a Congress on how to help all human beings richly to enjoy life. This was true not only of the general meetings but of the section meetings which talked about What Men and Women Want To Do, Keeping Alive Through Drama, What Parks Are Doing for Abundant Life, Recreation for Family Life, Comradeship Through Social Recreation, Play for Youth, Widening Horizons Through Nature, Hobbies, Zestful Living Through Music, Preparing Children for Abundant Life, Creative Arts and Crafts.

There was recognition of the need for self-initiated and self-directed activities. Volunteers and their contributions were accepted. There was constant questioning of anything which should smack of a superimposition in program making. There was awareness that those responsible for recreation would need to think freshly and in non-conventional patterns in order to provide recreation for long week-ends and long after-work periods rather than the short-time recreational activities to which we have become accustomed. Cooperation and the organization of community forces, the need for public understanding, for boards of laymen were all recognized, talked about, wanted and needed. Indeed there seemed to be a constant, alert, well-informed attempt to approach radically and from new points of view the needs of human beings these days for abundant living. Many who have been working and urging and prodding in order that the public recreation movement, for instance, might give more recognition to music or to drama or to handcraft or to nature activities must in many previous Congresses have felt that they were prophets crying in the wilderness; that few of the rank and file really did share their convictions that activities in these fields would minister to the needs of their clients. At this Congress such leaders must have felt that the movement had genuinely caught up with them; that whether because of more free time and energy or of budget assistance from relief funds or of a new comprehension and attack on our problems the recreation movement as a whole was at last genuinely aware

of the richness of its own content and that the job is indeed the art of abundant living.

And this, of course, means new techniques—for the discovery of interests, of hobbies, of leaders; for training; for research and experimentation in how the recreation forces of the country may serve real needs as we find them; for new organization methods by which we can avoid imposed and restricted programs; for discovery of methods; for the cooperation of all social forces and agencies; for social engineering methods. Techniques are needed, too, for advance planning on an enlarged scale to serve the existing needs of all, for the genuine enlistment of the interests and power of board members and other laymen, and for development from our present confusions and especially from our relief-supported activities, into durable governmental service agencies.

A New Measure of Life Values

In these days it seems actually possible that life may have a new measure of values, that success is not, in the future, to be measured in terms of acquisition of wealth nor even in full days through financial purchase of enjoyment, but rather that success is to be measured even popularly by ability to live richly and abundantly through exercise of growing skills, through creative experiences that shall culminate in art or beauty, and that shall be judged by these ideal standards. In *The Epic of America*, James Truslow Adams identified American ambition with success in money-making and said that the standards of American life were fixed by the money-makers. The experience of the last few years has undermined this identity. And Mrs. Roosevelt, Lorado Taft, John Colt,

Daniel Poling, Arthur E. Morgan were only the leaders among those at this conference who challenged and fundamentally denied this, who insisted that life is more than meat and that life in America in the future is to glorify and afford the opportunity for not the acquisitive, but the abundant life.

This was the challenge to us recreation workers, for we, too, shall be judged by our ability to

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A number of special events were scheduled for delegates of the Congress by the Washington Committee on Local Arrangements the chairman of which was C. Marshall Finnan, Superintendent, National Capital Parks.

Among these events were a Sunday afternoon boat ride down the Potomac River on the Coast Guard boat, "The Apache;" a production of "Alice in Wonderland" by the Community Center Department of the schools; play day and folk dance demonstrations by children from several playgrounds under the Playground Department; an afternoon tour of Washington parks, playgrounds and community centers; a tour of settlement houses under the auspices of the Council of Social Agencies; an exhibition at the National Museum by the Potomac Rose Club.

Living and Preparation for Life Through Recreation

By MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

In introducing Mrs. Roosevelt, the Chairman, Dr. John H. Finley, said: This organization began in the White House twenty-eight years ago, and now the White House has come to us. I put it in the third person, as perhaps I should, but I would like to address you in the second person.

We are proud of her for what she has dared to do for those in need of a friend. She comes nearer being omnipresent than any other woman or man in America, or perhaps in the world. The poorest family can't be sure when they hear a knock at the door that it isn't Mrs. Roosevelt coming to see them, but we glory in that fact, that the White House will come to the humblest house in this land.

She was typified to the world as the ideal woman. Tennyson doesn't know about it, but I have taken his lines and added a few of my own, and you will know which are Tennyson's and which are mine without my telling you.

Who moves with man to one fair planet goal,
Scaling with him the shining steps—he
Gaining in sweetness and in moral height,
Nor losing wrestling thews that throw the world.
She, mental breadth, nor failing childhood care,
Nor lose the childlike in the larger mind.
So she has set herself to man, in fact,
Like perfect music unto noble words.

And in a nation in whose heart there dwells
Some sense of duty, something of a faith,
Some reverence for the laws ourselves have made
Some patient force to change them when we will.

I am sorry that I was not able to go with Mr. Butterworth and others to see the President and to express appreciation to him of what he has done in aid of what we are interested in. I would have liked to have said to him these lines, which I began to write, Mrs. Roosevelt, when we crossed just at the end of the War:

He has better made the best of us
And raised each single chest of us
He has fed the hungriest of us
He has clothed the nakedest of us
Long, long will he be blest of us
North, South and East and West of us.

If I were to add to the Tennyson medley, to you I should quote a few lines from the noblest apostrophe to woman in literature, the last chapter in the Book of Proverbs:

Her price is above rubies,
She perceiveth that her merchandise is good.
She stretcheth out her hand to the poor;
She stretcheth forth her hand to the needy.
Her husband is known in the gates,
She openeth her mouth with wisdom.

I present to you, Mrs. Roosevelt.



Dr. Finley Introduces Mrs. Roosevelt

Seated, left to right, are: Mrs. Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Dr. J. H. McCurdy, John Colt, Mrs. Roosevelt, Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, William Butterworth, Daniel M. Poling, Austin E. Griffiths.

MY FRIENDS, I think that all one can say is that it is a joy to be presented to any audience by Dr. Finley, but also an embarrassment. Certainly, he presents one more charmingly than anyone I know.

I am glad to be here tonight, and glad to come to you who were started on your way by another member of my family. I think that it must run in the family to see that recreation is not an unimportant thing, that it really has a part in the

building of human beings in their health and in their character and in their ability to enjoy life. I know that my father used to say—and I think his brother felt the same way—that one of the most important things to learn was to enjoy life, that you never could be really useful in the world if you had not learned to go gaily into whatever you were doing, whether it was work or play. To learn to play is one of the most valuable things in the building of any child's character.

Now, at the present time, this question of recreation is more important to us than it has ever been before. In the first place, we know that we are going to have more leisure time and that recreation does not mean only doing certain specific things. Recreation is a wide, wide word that covers innumerable occupations.

Sometimes what is recreation for one person would be work for another. We must, however, develop all possible fields to satisfy as many tastes as possible. We must realize that this is a very, very big field, and the fact that we are going to have more leisure really puts upon all of us who have an interest in the use of leisure time a greater responsibility than ever before.

Now, already in our education we have realized that little children can and should learn a great deal through play, but as they grow older, while we have as a rule had athletic programs for older children and while private agencies have provided them with programs of different kinds, I think in many of our high schools, particularly, we have neglected very often the possibilities for teaching a variety of recreational activities, but I think now we have come to realize that here is one place where we could improve what has been done in the past.

I think we have a new problem before us just at the moment, which I hope will not be with us for long, but which is with us now; namely, that many children are coming out of high school, some of them out of junior college or college even, and are not able to find any work to do. Therefore, their time is unoccupied, and unless those of us who take an interest in the recreational activities of any community make a special effort to have programs for these young people in our communities, I think we naturally will find a great many young people getting into more or less serious mischief.

And therefore, we have for the time being, at least, this as an added responsibility.

Community Recreation a Government Problem

I have felt, as you have, that it was a community problem, a government problem to a great extent, to promote as far as possible recreation in every community.

I had an experience this summer which I enjoyed very much and which gave me an opportunity of seeing what the federal government does in some of its national parks to promote the kind of recreation which I am happy to think is not only a joy but a very wonderful experience for a great many people. I happened to be in California and I visited three of our national parks, and it was really quite an extraordinary experience to find in the Yosemite these enormous camping spaces for thousands of people.

One evening I drove down to a place where a great many of the campers had gathered around an outdoor theatre, and the program was provided entirely from among the people who were camping there themselves. Every one who had talent came and gave of his talent, and it was really quite thrilling because I don't suppose that there was anyone—at least I didn't hear anyone—who was remarkable, but it was good, and it was healthy, and it was fun, and everybody was having a good time, and the young ranger who was introducing the people and who had arranged the program entered into the spirit of it and they ended with community singing.

I stood on the outskirts and I became so interested—I had been taken there and had been told very carefully to stay on the outskirts because nobody must know that I was there, so I was poked behind a tree but I started to walk out from behind the tree and somebody plucked my sleeve and said, "You will be recognized," and I said, "Oh yes," and got behind the tree again, but as they began to sing, I could hardly bear it, because I love to sing with a big group. I have no voice, but just the same it is great fun to sing with a great big group, and I love to hear them sing, and I feel sure that these big groups felt as I did!

Campers Find Strength and Happiness

It gave me really quite a thrill, because there were so many people having a good time together, and it wasn't costing a great deal, and it was creating a spirit of neighborliness and they were getting close to beautiful nature. I don't think that anyone could have been there and not have

come away as I did, with a feeling of strength and beauty and happiness, which would carry you through a good deal that you might have to go through afterwards.

There were one or two very amusing things which happened which some of you may enjoy. There was a young ranger who went camping with me up in the high Sierras who had been married only a short time. His wife had been left down in the camp in the valley. One thing she was very nervous about; she had never been out in the open a great deal and she had heard about the bears. The bears are comparatively tame, but they do occasionally come where they smell food.

The young ranger, who was rather accustomed to the out-of-doors because he had been on two trips in Alaska with Father Hubbard, thought she was very foolish in her fears. Before he left her he told her that there was nothing to be afraid of in the bears but if the bears walked up to the door, she should just throw something at them and they would go away. So when I came down in the valley I asked him if he could bring his wife to see me. When she came she told me this story.

She was sitting alone in the tent when she heard a funny noise. It sounded in the direction of the larder. They had a sort of wire box that they pulled up off the ground. I think that she had forgotten to pull it up and when she went out—she didn't go out for a long time; she was too nervous—she found that a bear had taken everything out of the larder, which made her feel even more nervous than before.

The next night while she was reading a book she heard something about her door. The door was a screen door and was hooked; she looked

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT RECEIVES RECREATION CONGRESS COMMITTEE

"President Roosevelt received a committee from the Congress this noon. Five or six of us from the Board of the National Recreation Association called on him to offer the services and experience of the Association to the government for whatever uses could be made of them. The President already knew what Aubrey Williams said to us Monday night—that we had been of great use to the emergency relief administrators in the nation, the states, and the different localities, and to the millions of people who are suffering from the emptiness of enforced leisure. We were able to tell him of the special services which are being rendered to the Department of Agriculture, to the Office of Education, to the National Capital Park and Planning Commission and to the National Resources Board, and to say to him that the Association and the recreation forces of the country were at his disposal for any additional services within our field.

"The President recalled that he had been a member of the National Recreation Association and a sponsor for the Association helping to raise money for it long before he was governor of New York State and was proud of the association. His final word to us to be repeated to the Congress was, 'You are doing a bully fine job!'—*William Butterworth, Chairman.*

out and there was a bear right by the steps. She was perfectly petrified, but thought, "If I only had something to throw!" She had a book in her hand but instead of throwing that, she seized the clock and threw it. When her husband came home, he was a little annoyed because they were without a clock and it was all because of his advice!

I had a great deal of sympathy with her because I felt quite sure that if any bear had really appeared, I would have done the same thing, and this is what really happened to me. They told me that they had brought a dog into the camp because after

you were in a camp a day or so bears might come around. I was lying in a sleeping bag under the trees and I felt something moving around my feet and though I was very sleepy, through my mind went the thought, "Suppose I should sit up and see a bear!" I had forgotten about the dog, and I thought, "Oh, well, I won't sit up and see what it is," and I tried to go to sleep again.

But still the thing seemed to move around my feet, and so with an effort I sat up, fully expecting to find a bear, and there was the dog, peacefully nestling down by my feet. I should have known that the bear couldn't have come into camp without the dog protesting, so I decided that I would have behaved very much the same way that my ranger's wife did if I had really found a bear.

National Parks Arouse Pride

The feeling that you get from seeing what pleasure and what health people get from the national parks is one of great thankfulness that we have such things and that the national government is responsible for them.

I had always known a good deal about what we had done in New York State but this was my

first real experience with the national parks, out west, and I came back with great pride in our government and pride in us as a people, that we could have the vision to do things of this kind and to stand back of the development of something which I feel is really a great help, physically and morally and in every way, to the people of our country.

Now, there is one thing that I have always felt was particularly important in all of the recreation work which is done, whether it is done with young people or whether it is done as we are doing it today more and more with older people. The thing which impressed me, and impresses me more and more, is the need of trained leaders. I don't believe that we accomplish half so much if we provide the physical environment for play or for education, and do not provide adequate leaders. You can get on with poor equipment if you have a really imaginative and good person to guide the people who come there.

That, I think, is one of the things that we need to bring home to many of our local governments. We have in this country been very prone in the past to think that buildings and equipment were the most important things; they are not. The people who are going to lead in the use of those things are really the greatest factor. The other things are a great help, but I have seen some of the most interesting programs worked out by individuals and carried through successfully for the good of the whole community where there was very little equipment and where it depended largely on the initiative of the leader and the people who were doing the work.

Success Redefined

Now, I know that in the past it has been felt that success in life was largely measured by what you accumulated in a material way, but I think we are going to change that concept in the next few years. I think that success is going to be measured by the amount of satisfaction that people get in living their lives. There is still a feeling, I think, among young people, a great many of them, that to be a success a man must make a fortune, but that idea is changing, and I am more and more interested to find young people coming to me and saying, "We are not so keen about getting into work which is going to bring us just material returns. We are keen about getting into work which we will enjoy doing, and which at the same time will be a mode

of living which will really give us happiness and contentment, and which we can enjoy as we go along."

So many people in the past have worked at things they really didn't enjoy, and worked early and late, with practically no recreation, and always with the idea that some day they would have enough money laid aside to retire and enjoy life, and when that day came, I have met many a disappointed man and a disappointed woman, because when they came to enjoy life they made the discovery that they might have the desire but they didn't have the ability to realize the desire.

You can't turn on your capacity for enjoyment like a faucet. You have to develop it as you go through life, and therefore I think we have a new opportunity, a greater opportunity than ever before, and perhaps a greater field because we are really today the means by which a new ideal of living is to be realized.

So in coming to you this evening, I have really come—as my husband has already wished you success—I have come to wish you, myself, great success in the work which you are doing, and to express the hope that the work is going to grow, and that you will be given the vision and the imagination to meet the opportunities of today and tomorrow.

The important contribution which our national parks are making to the enjoyment of vast numbers of people was emphasized by President Roosevelt in a talk at Glacier National Park last August when he said: "There is nothing so American as our national parks. The scenery and wild life are native and the fundamental idea behind the parks is native. It is, in brief, that the country belongs to the people; that what it is and what it is in the process of making is for the enrichment of the lives of all of us. Thus the parks stand as the outward symbol of this great human principle."

Commenting on the announcement that 1934 was to be emphasized as National Parks Year, he said: "With all the earnestness at my command, I express to you the hope that each and every one of you who can possibly find the means and the opportunity for so doing will visit our national parks and use them as they are intended to be used. They are not for the rich alone. Camping is free; the sanitation is excellent. You will find them in every part of the Union, you will find glorious scenery of every character; you will find every climate; you will perform the double function of enjoying much and learning much."

Recreation As a Socially Useful Field of Employment

By JOHN COLT

My honorable chairman, in giving me such an introduction, had to go back to my birth-place—although I am not ashamed of it—as if I were relying on the place or time or my parentage for any advantage. This reminds me of what I once heard the Honorable William Jennings Bryan say.

Many letters had come from young students asking him what they should do to become orators. One day he got a letter like this: "Dear Mr. Bryan, I am a born orator. What shall I do about it?" Mr. Bryan wrote back: "My dear Sir, I suppose that orators have had to be born like the rest of us, but let me assure you that being born is the smallest part of your equipment as an orator."

I am a poor writer and a worse reader and I refuse to come down here with an inspiring audience like this and attempt to read what I have got written here. So if you will allow me, I am just going to talk to you tonight about some of these matters that are close to your hearts. They have certainly been close to mine for the year and a half that I have attempted to direct relief in the great state of New Jersey.

I would venture to suggest that one of the most startling discoveries of this depression, certainly startling to the great bulk of Americans, was the fact that this problem of leisure time, which had never been a problem at all, at least consciously to most of us, had suddenly become a vital concern of really gigantic proportions. Not long after I took control of the New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration, I realized that I had not one but two or three prime duties in my

work. Now it goes without saying that the first duty of anybody in a relief administration is to see that every man, woman and child in our communities who is in want and who has not the proper means of livelihood, shall get relief and that they shall get enough relief. And by that I mean enough not only to keep them alive but to keep them in life and health.

And then it seems to me that our second duty, which I even vision as a corollary of the first, is to see that those who are not deserving are not on our rolls. But, ladies and gentlemen, for one year and a half I have gone from one end of the state of New Jersey to the other, preaching this doctrine, that we who are in charge of relief have a far broader, nobler and more vital task than the mere feeding and clothing and housing of these people, important as that is.

Morale Building a Part of Relief

I say to myself and to my associates every day in the year that we must never forget that we are dealing with people, and that they are live people; they are individuals with just the same longings, appreciations, hopes and fears and disappointments as you and I have, and in all of our doing we must be sure that we do something for them, the individuals themselves.

And that is the reason that I have gone around seeking the aid of an association like yours, going into the churches and the schools and fraternal orders and women's clubs and the American Legion in order that you people may help us in relief to do this very much more vital thing, the sustaining and upbuilding of the

Mr. Colt, Chairman of the Administrative Council of the New Jersey Emergency Relief Administration, was primarily responsible for the establishment of a Leisure Time Division of the Administration. The state-wide program which has been developed by the Division is administered by a state director of leisure time activities. Directors have also been appointed in nineteen counties.

The extent of this program is indicated by Mr. Colt's statement that the 1934 summer program served 48,000 adults and 160,000 children. 615,000 people attended dances and concerts sponsored during the summer months.

Much of the success of the Leisure Time Division of the Emergency Relief Administration in New Jersey is due to Mr. Colt's inspiration and guidance.

morale of those less fortunate neighbors of ours who are on the relief rolls. And I say to you most soberly this evening, if those of us in relief throughout this great country of ours do not in addition to material sustenance give these people something of hope and cheer and guidance, then we have failed lamentably in the great task that was laid upon us.

Well, I think that you will all admit that that was a nice program which I outlined, but I have to confess that it took me six months to get that third objective under way, and it wasn't until I got in touch with your Mr. Faust, who not only understood what I was driving at, but better still, offered and executed one of the most excellent surveys of the recreation facilities of New Jersey, and free of charge, and it wasn't until later that I got Mrs. Marjorie Woodlock, also a trained worker in your Association, to help, that I began to see any light or any hope. With the help of those two people, I was able to establish what is known as the Leisure Time Division of the Emergency Relief Administration of New Jersey and it is one of the divisions of which I am most proud and one that nobody dares do anything with unless they check with me.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I wish that I had the time tonight—I had better warn you that when I have a good time my watch stops—I would like to tell you in detail about what this Leisure Time Division which was established by you and which was aided by you has done.

Broad Recreation Program Under E. R. A.

But suffice it to say that we have taken within our purview all of those objectives and aims which I have seen recommended and approved in your prospectus: Education, handicraft, concerts, theatricals, playgrounds, and all of the better sort of entertainments. Last winter when we just got under way, we had forty-one thousand people enrolled in our winter work and we estimated that we touched ten times as many or an audience of four hundred thousand which is almost equal to our relief burden during the winter. And this summer in our summer program we had forty-eight thousand adults and one hundred and sixty thousand children or a total of two hundred and

In his address Mr. Colt paid high tribute to workers in the recreation movement and to the National Recreation Association: "... I want to express to you the gratitude that I have in my heart for the high things that this Association has given us. . . Without your help and your inspiration, the loan of your people, the fact that you train people in leisure time activities, I would still be groping around to get a start. . . Thanks to every one of you."

eight thousand. Six hundred and fifteen thousand people in the state of New Jersey last summer attended dances and concerts sponsored by the Leisure Time Division of the E. R. A.

And I would like to mention, also, a thing that Mrs. Roosevelt touched upon. Last year in the state of New Jersey two thousand children

enrolled in junior colleges which were sponsored and paid for by the Emergency Relief Administration.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I think you people won't wonder why I am glad to come down here tonight; why I am enthused about you and what you are doing and why I want to express to you the gratitude that I have in my heart for the high things that this Association has given us. And more than that, I want to encourage you by saying that we are determined in New Jersey that the strides that have been made in this leisure work shall not be lost. At our request, the Governor of New Jersey has appointed a state commission on leisure time, and this is entirely independent of our relief administration, for the purpose of putting this work on a firm, sure and a permanent basis.

Well, without your help and your inspiration, the loan of your people, the fact that you train people in leisure time activities, I would still be groping around to get a start; and if you want to know why I came here this evening, I came here simply to say, as sincerely and as feelingly as I can and as I know how, thanks to every one of you.

Recreation, A Fundamental Part of Relief

I notice that I was given a topic—I don't know whether you have read the topic, "Recreation As a Socially Useful Field of Employment." I would say that it is pretty formidable and I always know from being a chairman, that it is nice to have the speaker at least touch on the topic assigned him.

Maybe some of you have read a book called "The Threat of Leisure," by George Barton Cutten, President of Colgate University. To me it is a particularly stimulating and timely volume. In that book Dr. Cutten reminds us that it was during his respite from forced labor that primitive man improved his utensils, decorated his weapons and made his first rude carvings on the walls

of his cave. It was from the hours and days of the leisure of the primitive man that our arts, our sciences, our games, in fact, all of the products of civilization date, and as Dr. Cutten points out, civilization is but itself the product of leisure time.

Now as I understand it, you are banded together and have been working for years to make of leisure time what it was originally and always should be, a creative force. The machine first produced the need for an organization like yours, and it seems to me that the depression with its widespread unemployment has brought your aims and objects out into bold relief.

And if it is true, as Dr. Cutten says, that civilization was produced by leisure time, then I say that you people ought to be in the van of the recreation of a new and better civilization in this country of ours. And if you ask me the question, "Are you who are employed in this field of recreation in a useful field?" I would say, "Well, is a mother in a home of growing children necessary?" It seems to me that you are not only in a useful field but you are in an absolutely vital field.

Now it is true that this country has suffered and still suffers a deep depression but I want you to know that I feel that this country is also enjoying one of the grandest opportunities that we have ever experienced. You know, as I have travelled throughout the length and the breadth of New Jersey, it has been borne into my heart that as in the war years there is an outflow of neighborliness and loving kindness. Yet I think that one of the greatest perils that we face today is that, as right after the end of the war, this spirit of brotherly love may evaporate. I think one of the grandest things a group like this can do is to see that this spirit is cemented and retained, because I say to you in all soberness that selfishness and greed and inhumanity in this country have got to go or the true America as we have known it and longed for it to be will be no more.

Production vs Dignity of Human Life

John Galsworthy once said that the question before this world was a question of quantity or quality, blind production or dignity of human life.

There must be such a cultivation or good will that we will dream and plan and work so that not only our-

If you ask me the question, "Are you who are employed in this field of recreation in a useful field?" I would say, "Well, is a mother in a home of growing children necessary?" It seems to me that you are not only in a useful field but in an absolutely vital field.

selves but all others of our fellow citizens will have a chance to really live. This country still faces a serious crisis and only a fundamental change in our attitude towards each other will be of any avail. Well, now when is a man or woman going to do this except in leisure time? When are they going to see their problems? When are they going to grapple with them, and when is their transformation of spirit going to take place?

If you ask me if you are in a socially useful field, my answer is that the future of this country is in your hands. You know that the later day historians tell us that this country is on the wane, and they say that we are on the wane because we have no new frontiers to conquer, and they assert that when a country has lost its pioneering spirit, then decadence sets in.

Well, the frontiers that they talk about were material frontiers. They were the mountains, forests and the raging streams, and the pioneering of which they speak was a physical and material pioneering, but I tell you that I see in this country a new age of pioneering so much more glorious than that of the old age that there is no comparison, and it is a pioneering that is instinct with greater human riches than anything we have heard of before. It is a pioneering in human relationships and in that pioneering the surface has just been scratched.

Coming down on the train I was thrilled to read the purposes and the aims of this Association, because it seemed to me, you, fundamentally, basically, include the great human needs in the compass of your program, and if I read your prospectus accurately, what you propose to do is to teach people how to live. And what more noble vocation in life can there be than that!

Now, having been a professor, the habit never leaves one of just a few admonitions before the hour is over and I know that you would be disappointed if I didn't point out some ways in which I think progress might be more quickly attained.

We are Dealing With People

You know, we want to never forget that we are dealing with people, and I don't care what job anybody in this room has in this recreation program, you are dealing with people. A man once went to Dr. Arnold at Rugby and said, "Dr. Arnold, I understand that you teach mathematics," to which the doctor laconic-

ally replied, "No, I teach boys."

Not long ago a dinner was given to a man whom I consider to be one of the greatest educators that Princeton University has had in the last twenty-five years, and yet if you pick up the university catalog and finger down through the officers of administration or the faculty, you wouldn't find his name. Why? Simply because he was a trainer of the Princeton team and his name was Keene Fitzpatrick. For twenty-five years Keene Fitzpatrick was the most respected man on the Princeton campus and I consider him the greatest educator that we had there because of his character and of his ideals, his innate sense of modesty, his principle of sportsmanship, and above all because of his love for young men. He turned more boys into men than any man that I know, and so a few months ago they gave him a dinner, and leaders from all over this country attended that dinner to testify to the influence in their lives of that trainer.

Keene Fitzpatrick was only a trainer of the Princeton team and yet that man envisaged his job as a maker of men.

Now I know that I don't need to say what I am going to say to this audience, and I don't think that it fits, but I am going to say it just the same. I never could see why people go into the field of working with other people unless they love people. And I am going to tell you tonight, because I say it all over New Jersey, and I am going to start saying it again—the thing that grieves me most in emergency relief is the fact that there are still a number of people who are supposed to be trained workers that treat these people on relief as if they were numbers on a relief roll.

You know the poet says, "The gift without the giver is bare." I say to you, "Relief without an utterly sincere and human loving touch can never be anything but a hand out." And so in your work, the richest gift you have to give these people that come within your circle is something of yourself, something of understanding, and sympathy, and kindness, hope and faith.

Leaders Should Study Constantly

Then may I suggest that if you and I set ourselves to be teachers of life, we have got to know something about the matter ourselves, and that

If you and I set ourselves to be teachers of life, we have got to know something about the matter ourselves, and that means that we have got to be constantly studying. It is a vocation that calls for self-discipline; it calls for self-sacrifice; and it calls for continual growth on our part.

means that we have got to be constantly studying. It is a vocation that calls for self-discipline; it calls for self-sacrifice; and it calls for continual growth on our part.

Then let me say to you, "I like this Association," and I will tell you why. I never found anybody yet in it that seemed to have a title. If they have, I have forgotten. They are all just regular people and they didn't send me any engraved cards and they weren't professors in the science of living, or the science of soft ball, or the science of golf or anything else—they were just people.

Now not long ago one of the students came to me and said, "Dr. Henry Van Dyke is going to deliver his last lecture in English." I said, "That is fine. I am delighted you told me." Dr. Van Dyke was a dear friend of mine. I had him as a teacher when I was an undergraduate. I said, "I am going to go over and hear him deliver his last lecture to a class of Princeton undergraduates." I went over, and wended my way along the familiar paths and I sat in the same room that I sat in as an undergraduate.

When the lecture was over, Dr. Van Dyke closed the little black book that he used to refer to. He was one of those artists like our chairman—he seemed to talk and yet he could look at his manuscript at the same time and it didn't impede his progress as it would mine. And he looked at these boys in front of him and he said, "I have got one request to make of you—when I leave this room, don't think of me as a professor of literature but just think of me as a teacher of reading."

You know, the other night somebody asked about education—you people have come from all over the country; you have seen cuts in educational budgets—and I said, "America has never suffered from too much education, but we have spent too much money on buildings and too little money on teachers."

This country needs some people that are just willing to be called teachers. We could do with a lot more teachers and a lot less title-conscious professors—and I am not against professors but I am against title-conscious professors—and I hope that this recreation association retains just that same simplicity and charm in this broader field that you have set for yourselves as you have in

the past, because you have touched the popular imagination—and I know, because I sit in one of the capitals of the state and the popular imagination filters through any state capital.

I must say just one word for my friends, the unemployed in New Jersey, because they are in the same plight as the unemployed all over the country. The other evening I was making a speech and when I got through I foolishly asked for questions, and there was a man in the back of the room who got up and said, "Mr. Colt, I would like to ask you a question."

I said, "Go ahead."

He said, "Would you like to know how to run relief?" The audience laughed and so did I and I said, "Yes, I have been trying to for a year and a half."

"Well," he said, "I will tell you how to run relief. If for every family on relief you had another family that wasn't on relief that would befriend that family, not give them anything but just befriend them, you would change the complexion of relief in New Jersey over night."

Relief, A Problem of Neighborliness

And you know, that man is right, because this relief problem impinges on the life of every single individual citizen in this country, because in the last analysis, it is simply a problem of neighborliness. If your friends and my friends and your neighbors and mine, who through no fault of their own have been without work, some for months and others for years, could have that encouragement and that warmth and feeling of still belonging that come so vividly and so reassuringly from actual human contact, we could change the complexion of relief in this country over night.

The other day I was reading one of those beautiful sermons by Dr. Bowie of New York City and I came across this passage. He said, "The new, the alien, the unimpressive—do we not instinctively turn our backs on these?"

As I read those two sentences, I thought of these relief people. You know, they are new; they are not the old poor; they are not the chronic poor; they are

men and women as you and I. And just because they are new and are like us, paradoxically as it may sound, they seem to us to be alien. We don't know what to do with them; we don't know how to classify them; we misunderstand them. And then, if we see them individually, one by one, after they have been out of work for months or years, they do seem unimpressive. I want to tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that this country is facing in this year the most serious crisis that we have faced and I will tell you why.

For two months before I went away on my vacation I did little else except to meet with delegations of unemployed from all over the state of New Jersey and this was the insistent note that was reiterated to me again and again in those interviews: "Mr. Colt, we don't want to become radicals; we don't want to join the ranks of the enemies of organized society; but will you answer us one question? Why is it that those people are the only people that seem to have time to talk with us?"

Well, I could have answered their questions but I didn't dare. The reason that the radicals are the only people who have time to talk with them is because we are so busy trying to do something for them that we haven't got time to help them.

And so I make a plea to you good people tonight, that wherever you help in this country, in this relief work, in our leisure time activity, that you take the time to really let these people talk to you, and more than that, that you tell us where we are failing with these people.

Now Mr. Chairman, I have just one wish for this Association as I close. Like Mrs. Roosevelt, I hope that you will always be guided by the broadest and the loftiest conception of your mission. You know, too many people in the United States think of you simply as an association interested in physical recreation. But it seems to me that anybody reading the tenets of your organization and contemplating the moving theme of this Congress, "Life more abundant," will be convinced that you have a much broader function. I hope to see, and that you may

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Buy Christmas Seals



Help Fight Tuberculosis

The Christmas Play for Everyone

OF ALL THE holidays there is none that draws children and adults together so closely as Christmas when people of all ages meet in services, festivals and other occasions traditional of the season. In many communities the Christmas play has become an important event, fully as much a part of the season's activities as St. Nicholas himself. Christmas plays in which children and adults take part seem especially appropriate since any audience is at this time bound to be made up of the entire family.

The play in which the child plays with his grown-up friends has a very special value for him. As he interprets the part of a child of his own age, the little actor finds himself at ease and able to contribute his own gifts of grace and talent in the true spirit of the season. He learns to subordinate himself to the play as a whole so that the beautiful thought which it expresses may not be marred by the slightest display of "show off." Adults in charge of the production should guard against unnecessarily featuring the child actors or exploiting their lovely, natural gifts. The little players should understand that, no matter how small their parts, they can bring distinction to the play through sincere work. The small extra in the role of a carol singer may contribute great

beauty to a scene by his apparent absorption in the character of another child—perhaps a carol singer of another time, another country—whose personality the player has captured and faithfully reproduced.

Among the plays for Christmas which fulfill the threefold purpose of pleasing the adult players, giving children opportunities for playing within their own sphere, and delighting an audience composed of all ages is *The Toymaker's Doll*. This play tells the story of old Franz Brock, a toymaker who has been beloved of the children of his village for many years. It has always been Franz' custom to throw open his shop on Christmas Eve to the poor children and to give away whatever toys remain unsold upon his shelves. But Franz has made a marvelous invention—he has learned to make wonderful walking dolls, dolls that march, waltz and curtsy to delightful tinkling tunes.

News of his dolls has spread throughout the land and as the play begins Franz finds himself becoming a wealthy man. Sudden riches have turned the simple toymaker's head and he has grown into a harsh, greedy man. He drives the children from his shop and even refuses to give a broken toy to a poor woman whose child is ill.

His wife, Minna, and Hilda, his granddaughter, beg him to be his old self, but Franz, lost in his dreams of becoming toymaker to the children of royalty, is impatient with them. When a mysterious woman comes to his shop and warns him that before Christmas Eve is over he will gladly



A scene from "The Toymaker's Doll" as presented by a group of National Recreation Association workers, Christmas 1933.

give away everything he owns, he scoffs at the prophecy. The burgomaster comes for the dolls he has ordered and Franz gleefully demonstrates a soldier, a shepherdess and a dancing doll for the amazed customer.

When the man has left, Franz sits gloating over the gold that has been paid him. Suddenly a messenger in rich attire appears and Franz' dream comes true—the prince has sent for a doll. But just as Franz realizes to his dismay that his last doll has been sold to the burgomaster, Minna's screams of terror are heard and Hilda enters, bewitched into a walking doll. The old couple are terrified as the messenger, believing Hilda to be a real doll, insists upon purchasing her. The spell is lifted when Franz remembers the words of the mysterious visitor and a group of children, singing carols as they pass the shop, are summoned in to receive their toys as in other years. Frantically Grandfather Franz gives away his toys, and at last Hilda is released from the spell and joins the children in their merrymaking. The play ends with the grateful toymaker's admission that he would rather have the happy children about him than any amount of wealth.

The setting for this play is attractive and need not be expensive. Tinsel and light-weight toys hung on a plain dark curtain, the toymaker's work table on which a row of wooden soldiers stand, with groups of dolls, drums, etc., on the floor, are sufficient to create the atmosphere of a toy shop. A few families can contribute enough properties. Since the play tells a story laid in another century, toys of a distinctly modern nature would be out of place.

Another simple and lovely play is *The Woodcutter's Christmas*. The scene is a simple woodland cottage interior. As the play opens, the woodcutter's children are eagerly awaiting his return from the town where they hope he has gone to buy their Christmas gifts. They chatter of the special gifts that each would like to find on Christmas morning and can scarcely listen to their mother's fears that some harm might befall him on his journey through the forest.

When he finally enters, they see at once that the strange bundle in his arms cannot possibly represent the desired gifts and there is a moment of bitter disappointment. Then the woodcutter shows them what he has. It is a baby that he has found deserted in the forest. He asks his children to accept it instead of the gifts which he is too poor to provide. The children rally and soon lose their

disappointment in planning to share their own scant belongings with the little one. As the scene ends they are all happy in making their little, gracious sacrifices.

The next morning when the children come to greet the baby they find him gone. But the rude cradle where he lay is filled to overflowing with all the gifts of which they had dreamed. As the awed family gather about it, they realize that the stranger they had sheltered was the Christ Child and that their loving care has been rewarded by the miraculous gifts.

The simple scene may be set against a plain curtain with only a few pieces of rude furniture. Bright peasant costumes and the use of colored lights add to the attractiveness of the play which, in its utter simplicity, carries the Christmas message effectively and beautifully.

There are many other charming Christmas plays for children and adults to give together. If the play is to be used as part of a church service, the following are suggested as especially appropriate for this purpose:

No Room at the Inn by Esther Olson. Two men, one woman, one child. A lamp made by a little girl of Bethlehem lights the stable where the Christ Child lies. Walter H. Baker Company, 178 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. 35¢.

The Transfiguration of the Gifts by Frances Cavanah. Eight adults, five children, a choir. An imaginative interpretation of the Christmas story, where the humble gifts of little children are turned to beauty because of their love for the Christ Child. The Womans Press, 600 Lexington Avenue, New York City. 50¢.

The Spirit of Christmas by Grace Craig. Nine adults, seven children. When the Christmas Spirit appears, boys and girls learn the real meaning of the story they have heard many times. Tableaux of the wise men, the shepherds and the Nativity. Womans Press. 50¢. Royalty \$2.00.

If the occasion is solely one of entertainment but if some spiritual significance is desired, the following titles provide interesting material. The first two plays have already been described.

The Toymaker's Doll by Marion Holbrook. Six adults, four children and extras. The Dramatic Publishing Company, 59 East Van Buren Street, Chicago. 35¢.

The Woodcutter's Christmas by Linwood Taft. Two adults, five children. Three short acts. The Eldridge Entertainment House, Franklin, Ohio. 25¢.

Yuletide Wakes, Yuletide Breaks by Dorothy Gladys Spicer. A Christmas revel in which eleven nationalities are represented. This is designed to afford a full evening's entertainment. In addition to the episodes dealing directly with the individual national groups, there is a program

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Summaries of Discussion Group Meetings at the Recreation Congress

Eight minute reports of the section meetings at the Recreation Congress were presented to the entire group each day in order that all the delegates might have the benefit of the information presented at and the ideas developed in these discussion meetings. As at previous Congresses, these summary reports were greatly appreciated and proved a most valuable feature.

Problems in Recreation Program Building in the Creative Arts and Crafts

BY MRS. EUGENE MEYER

*Chairman, Westchester County Recreation Commission
White Plains, New York*

I AM glad to report that the meeting on arts and crafts was an excellent one. The discussions were almost all short, constructive and to the point. It was evident that the people who are working in this field had come to the conference well prepared.

One very interesting point of debate centered on the use of materials. Some of the members complained that inadequate budgets made it impossible for them to purchase good materials and therefore the progress of an art program was impeded. At once a group of workers who came mostly from the country insisted that fine, honest materials, native materials, were always at hand for anyone who had the ingenuity to appreciate them. They pointed out that clay could always be found for modeling, that willow could be used for basketry, that factory remnants made excellent hooked rugs, that reeds could be made into flutes, and so on. In other words, any natural material is usually beautiful and not the materials but the way in which they are used is the important point. Skill, in short, is more important in the development of an art program than a budget.

It was the consensus of the meeting that the thing taught is not as important as the method of teaching. Unless the teaching methods are right, the pupils will be more inhibited and stultified than developed. Why is there in America such a

widespread contempt for the arts? For those of us who come from the average, typical American small town or rural community must admit that most of our citizens go their way through life without having seen or heard a genuine work of artistic genius and without caring very much whether they do or not. Why is this so? Chiefly because our early training in the public schools was such that the arts and crafts were made to seem negligible. What is worse, many of us can remember attempts at the teaching of music or drawing which only increased our contempt for those modes of expression. Our reading, writing and arithmetic were in the hands of trained people whose knowledge we instinctively respected but such teaching in the arts as was given us was so banal, so obviously amateurish in method and purpose that our contempt for these lessons was just as instinctively transferred to the arts themselves.

Thus by and large we Americans are not only an uncultured people; we are in vast numbers definitely anti-cultural, if by culture we imply respect and appreciation of the highest efforts of the human mind.

Nevertheless many of our citizens carry about with them a secret yearning for things spiritual, and for a greater understanding of the beauty and significance of the arts. These people in vast numbers can be tempted to express in pottery, in painting, or in the lesser crafts, some of the emotional forces with which life cannot fail to endow them.

Do you ever take time to read the personal columns in our newspapers or even in our most

high-brow literary magazines? What is the burden of these letters? "I am lonely. What shall I do?" These people usually think that they are in need of a vast army of friends. What they really need is to get acquainted with themselves. The person who has once put forth every effort of which he is capable in helping to produce a play or dance, in singing with many others some fine choral work, or playing an instrument either by himself or in groups can never again feel entirely lonely.

The opportunity which the recreation movement has in the development of a love of the arts is boundless. It is, indeed, more than an opportunity. It is a challenge and a responsibility which we cannot avoid.

As I spoke harshly of the kind of art teaching which has been done in the public schools, I should add that the improvement in art instruction, particularly in the public schools of the big cities, has been very marked. The most modern of the private schools have contributed a considerable influence and our colleges have also widened their curriculums in this respect. What is probably the most promising omen is the fact that many informal groups have sprung up throughout the country who are practicing the arts for the sheer love of it without any professional ambitions or purposes.

But let me emphasize once more the importance of teaching methods in the arts. The whole object of such endeavors is to free the intuitive forces of the individual to build up the imagination, as Lorado Taft said, and never to discourage him by demanding an impossible degree of skill. At the same time the teacher's influence must be all on the side of honesty and sincerity, eliminating especially all the meretricious short cuts that produce a showy but superficial effect. There must be no undue emphasis on the merit of the product except as it is related to the progress of the individual worker. Whether one of the children models an awkward chicken or one of the advanced pupils turns out a genuine work of art, the joy involved is exactly the same in quality and in intensity and it is this creative joy which is the essential factor.

In other words, whether people paint well or badly does not matter. What matters is the effect of creative effort upon the individual. The spirit needs exercise just as definitely as the muscles. The recreation movement, if it is to be what its name implies, must afford just as many oppor-

tunities for the refreshment of the mind and the spirit as for the development of the body.

In Westchester we emphasize the arts because the athletic and play side of the program takes care of itself. The organization of an outdoor program is a routine matter by this time with all of us. But the recreational approach to the arts has a big contribution to make to the whole problem of education. If all people, regardless of talent, are encouraged to express themselves freely whether in painting, sculpture, or in craftsmanship of some sort, they will find a new integration, a new freedom, a new respect for self such as comprise the very foundation of human happiness.

We are not trying to produce great works of art, though we believe that even these will emerge from such a movement. We are trying to make good citizens who will find their lives enriched through creative effort and through an appreciation of what others have produced in the cultural field. With such an object in view, the pursuit of the arts is just as important and probably more important as a leisure time pursuit than either sports or games.

What Special Service Can the Recreation Movement Render to Youth Just Graduating from High School and College Who Are Unable To Find Employment?

BY KENNETH HOLLAND

*New England Supervisor of Education in C. C. C.
Boston, Mass.*

IN the first place, we decided that the recreation movement could call the attention of the people of the United States to the vast extent of this problem. The number of these young graduates are many—last June approximately a million young people graduated from high schools and approximately a hundred and forty thousand graduated from colleges and universities. In the last four years there were approximately four million seven hundred thousand of these young graduates. Thousands of these young people of that age have left college and joined the ranks of the unemployed—that sea of despair.

We must not only consider the conditions of these young people today but we must consider what their conditions will be ten or fifteen years from today. It is in these graduates that the United States has made the greatest investment. Society has made the greatest sacrifice for these young people and we must help preserve them in this time of crisis.

Consequently, we decided that while the leisure time activities are important for these young people, the first thing of importance is the obtaining of a job. In other words, that while we can tide over these young people in this time of crisis we must call the attention of the people of the United States to the fact that some provision must be made whereby these young people can be absorbed into the work-a-day world.

The recreation movement must not seem to teach these young people that their life is to be play; it must not seem to drug these young people into satisfaction; the recreation movement should stimulate the thought process as well as their muscles and creative powers. It can also be of great assistance in providing activities which will tide them over this time of depression, at the same time teaching them ways of using their leisure time after they are absorbed into the normal work-a-day world.

In the opinion of some of the people of this group, it was not the recreation movement's place to set up discussion groups so that these young people could better understand our general social and economic program. However, at least we agreed that if it was not the responsibility of the recreation movement to set up such discussion groups, recreation leaders should be sympathetically aware of the need for these young people to discuss the current social and economic problems so that they would better understand what changes must be made.

In the third place, we decided that if we are to develop the program for these young people we must recognize that they know what they want, and that it is necessary and desirable in setting up any kind of a program to make them feel that they are helping to organize this program. In Missouri a plan had been set up without consulting the people whom it was to help and it fell apart as soon as the C.W.A. fund was withdrawn. The programs were unable to continue after this support was withdrawn.

We believe that the interests of these youths will be wide and varied and that any program set up for them should provide opportunities to start anywhere in the whole great land of leisure time.

Some of the examples cited were very interesting, one in particular of the park department in Chicago which organized a model motor boat making program for young fellows between the ages of sixteen and twenty-one; they are now making complicated and successful tiny engines and are developing an interest in the whole process which may eventually develop into occupations for them. In other words, they may become so interested in this program and so enlightened that they can join the ranks of those like Dr. Finley who spend their work time in that field in which they are most interested.

In the fourth place, this group decided that any movement set up for young people should enlist those young people in leadership campaigns. These are the future leaders of the United States. They are the young people we have made the greatest sacrifice for and we must give them an opportunity to develop their own leaders.

Practice shows that while young people wish to participate in the organization of these activities they desire and welcome suggestions and help from adults of more experience. It was also pointed out that in picking out the adult committee, care should be given to select the outstanding leaders of the community. These organizations should grow out of the local community.

In the fifth place, we believe that initiative and imagination will discover the facilities necessary for the conduct of these leisure time activities.

In the sixth place, we decided that while recreation must meet this question, at the same time there must be a change in our educational instruction which will insure the next generation better plans and training for their leisure. Dr. Finley said on Monday night that education should teach the righteousness of leisure. The recreation movement must assist in education

so that it will provide for the constant practice of the constructive use of leisure time.

We did decide finally that the recreation movement must assist these young people, because as Disraeli has said, "The youth of the world are the trustees of posterity."

**"This great body of youth is intrusted to us. It is our responsibility. We dare not break our contract with it. We dare not leave it untrained for what it has to face. These boys and girls will be men and women. Nothing can possibly prevent their influence from molding the future of the country. They are placed in our hands for safe keeping."
— Newton D. Baker, Chairman,
Mobilization for Human Needs.**

**What Can Be Done to Secure A Better
Understanding of the National and
Local Recreation Movement?**

BY CURTIS P. FIELDS

Chairman, Recreation Board, Greenwich, Connecticut

RECREATION must concern itself with public relations. Whether we wish it or not, we must give careful heed to the type and quality of our publicity. Whether our work is supported by voluntary contributions or from tax funds, we are obliged to tell what we are doing with the money other people provide us. If we don't tell our story, our playground and other facilities will not be adequately used and the funds may be cut off at any time; if we tell it crudely, carelessly, people will pass our publicity by with a shrug and with scarcely veiled irritation at having their time and money wasted.

Our story may be told in many ways but most often the medium is the printed word. Here the infant is right back on our own doorstep, for we seldom can depend upon others. However friendly our relations with our local press, however ready they are to cooperate with us—for the most effective material, month after month, we must look to our own creative efforts. We who know most about what we are doing, we, ourselves, must tell our own story. The question, then, is —how?

The publicity problem of a recreation movement, whether local or national, may be summed up in the phrase, "Getting it across the footlights."

It is essentially a question of dramatization. We must pick out the really important highlights and present them in a manner that will appeal—not to ourselves—but to our readers; we must present them picturesquely, briefly, tersely.

Of course, in preparing our publicity we are not attempting to write literary masterpieces that will live for generations; but the fundamental question of catching and holding the reader's interest is the same. Imagine what "The Merchant of Venice" would have been like had Shakespeare spent much time reporting how often Shylock visited the Rialto each week or what Portia spent for her Sunday dinner. In the hands of an artist these things could be made interesting, to be sure, but they were not the highlights. Far better material was at hand.

Playing, like eating and sleeping, is a fundamental instinct; but in print it is likely to sound

dull and uninteresting unless it is treated with skill.

Yet, what an opportunity the subject affords! Things that concern children, adolescents and youths make the strongest kind of appeal to adults. We have evidence of that fact all around us in costly advertising designed to sell things to adults. Make no mistake about it; manufacturers and distributors would not spend their hard-earned money on that kind of advertising unless they were sure it paid its freight.

And that same appeal is one of our chief stocks-in-trade. Our work is largely concerned with children and adolescents. There is a wealth of material, too, in what we are doing to help conserve morale among adults. But in the hurry and press of everyday life we are likely—unless we guard against the temptation—to overlook the rich human interest of our recreation work and to let our publicity become uninspired, dull, drab, full of commonplaces and read only by those of us who are already fully persuaded.

Yes, it is simply a question of selection and of dramatization, but dramatization is not simple. It requires the hardest kind of work—and that is, constructive thinking. But it pays generous dividends. This does not imply melodrama, or undignified horse-play. It doesn't mean fancy or artificial writing, or sentimentalism; it doesn't suggest using such banalities as "tiny tots," or "palpitating hearts." The dramatic touch should be like the works of a watch. You don't see them unless you search for them, but they make the watch go; they make the watch worth looking at.

A good publicity article tells the whole story in the first sentence or two, but does it in such a manner that the reader keeps on because his interest has been aroused. In these days of headline readers who skim the news in hasty glances, a two fold test is:

First, did that sentence I just wrote make the reader want to know what follows?

Second, if he stops with that sentence, have I got my story across?

This has been justly called a picture age. But how many of us have stopped to consider how unspeakably dull a picture can be? By all means let us use pictures as freely as may be in telling our story, but as we love our work and its future let us select carefully the pictures we inflict upon a long-suffering public. The mere fact of being pictures does not and cannot make them appealing.

There are many other ways, too, of telling our story besides the printed word and pictures. Personal talks before large and small groups are one of the most effective of all—with the big qualification in capital letters that they must be interesting. Spare your community long and dull speeches, fill their ears with interesting stories of your work, and they will rise up to call you blessed, and eventually vote you larger appropriations.

In every community there may be men and women with speeches to make from time to time, who will be grateful for a little help in the way of living, dramatic material about recreational work and activities. Each member of your board and of your advisory committee should be a sort of walking delegate, ready at the drop of a hat to talk interestingly, sincerely and convincingly about the work, its accomplishments, and its opportunities.

Let's not make the mistake of believing that only prominent people can provide us with news. From the humblest home in your community may come a story that will set your whole city ablaze with interest in your work and in what you are trying to do.

"Seeing is believing," says an old adage. Encourage your City Fathers to visit your activities. Try to get the leaders of each section of the community to investigate for themselves. Persuade the chronic kicker to serve as chairman of one of your big evening events, and he will soon be a booster. Organized "Come and See Trips" are grand institutions—a regular feature in some communities.

What Men and Women Want To Do In Their Free Time

BY SIDNEY TELLER

*Executive Director, Irene Kaufmann Settlement,
Pittsburgh, Pa.*

THE discussion of "What Men and Women Want to Do in Their Free Time" resulted in a sort of testimonial meeting. The first speaker was Mr. Robert B. Hudson of Radburn, New Jersey, who stated that surveys of his town showed that ninety-seven per cent of the adults

"People may for a time spend their new and perhaps unwelcome leisure in sleep, at the movies or in driving back and forth on the crowded highways, catching glimpses of the countryside between the billboards. It is inconceivable, however, that these forms of entertainment will long satisfy our population. They will demand and are demanding some kind of occupation which will assist them to a more varied, stimulating, and important brand of activity." — *Robert M. Hutchins, President, University of Chicago, in address before the National Education Association, June, 1934.*

in his town participated in the recreation programs. Fifty-five per cent of the men insisted on physical recreation activities; the greatest number of women were in or wanted educational activities. The other general groups of activities were called citizenship and religious activities.

He said that the success of the program was due to the fact that it was not im-

posed but was what the people desired or expressed, and also to the fact leadership was supplied no matter how small the group was. He stated also that the program was flexible and did not have to be carried through the entire season. Adults will do what other adults do, either from a sense of duty, inspiration or imitation. He said, "Let small groups start; others will join."

The next speaker was Miss Jeanne Barnes of Morgantown, West Virginia, who presented a rural point of view. She stated that rural West Virginia in the vicinity of Morgantown has a background of mining and agriculture and the people living there are very socially minded. They have much native music and the outstanding events were fall and spring festivals in which persons from six years to eighty-six compete. They have family reunions, which are big affairs and the county fairs are the outstanding community events. They have to fight church opposition to having square dances in the school buildings, especially if they are in the vicinity of a cemetery.

She stated that the farmers enjoy most the county fairs where the men and women can exhibit products from the farm and their handcraft. The miners like best safety demonstrations and demonstrations of first aid teams in local and county competition. As to entertainments, local talent draws better crowds than imported talent from the city. Play days in various parts of the county are increasing the activities and also the number of participants.

The next speaker was J. J. Syme of Hamilton, Ontario, which is an industrial city of one hundred and sixty-five thousand people. He stated that athletics are the greatest interest of both single men and women in their free time. Single men

like soccer especially. In one year participation in this sport increased from eighteen persons to more than five hundred. Married people want self-governed "clubs" where they can develop their own programs, and find hidden talent within their own group.

He asked us the question: "What would you do and what would your staffs do in your own leisure or free time?"

The next speaker, George A. Lundberg of New York City, reported on a study of Westchester County. He said that what people do with their leisure depends on the conditions under which they live. What they would like to do depends on money and time.

In the study, members of Parent Teacher Associations were asked the question, "If you had \$1000 what would you do?" Fifty-three per cent of those who replied would engage in more outdoor sports, twenty-six per cent in more commercial entertainment and ten per cent would engage in travel. The rest were scattered. A second question asked this group was, "If you had two hours more a day of free time, what would you do with it?" The result was that forty per cent said they would spend it in reading; twenty-two per cent would spend it in sports and twenty-six per cent in creative activities. Mr. Lundberg suggested that we try these questions on ourselves.

In his opinion most people do not have clearly formulated ideas as to what they would like to do. They have cravings, feelings, tensions but not definite plans. Leaders should lead. There is too much letting people do what they think that they want to do which is bad for the individual and the group. Most people not only need to be told or directed but they want to be told. The recreation leader or department should determine what is desirable recreation or use of leisure time, and then lead the people into these activities.

The next speaker, W. Duncan Russell of Boston, referred to the opinion that there is a danger in more leisure since more and more leisure makes for less and less energy. This theory or tendency should be seriously considered and fought against. In his opinion adults want to be treated as adults. We must follow a course between the paternalistic which wants to make use of every minute of free time the way we want it used and the other extreme that what people do is none of our business.

I would like to take this opportunity of calling

your attention to a study which the National Recreation Association has made, the title of which is "The Leisure Hours of Five Thousand People." The outstanding facts which the study revealed may be briefly summarized as follows:

1. The home is the center for a large and increasing percentage of leisure time activity for large numbers of people.

2. The average number of activities taken part in outside the home, especially often, is relatively small and did not increase during the past year.

3. To a considerable degree leisure time activity at the present time is largely determined by low cost and availability rather than by the real desires of the people.

4. The expressed desires of a large number of individuals can be realized only as opportunities are made available through community provision for them.

5. The limited evidence available indicates that people working comparatively short hours but with reasonable security are utilizing their leisure increasingly in a wider range of varied activities than are people of any other employment status.

6. Age, sex and marital status are factors which have a considerable and varying influence upon people's leisure time activities and desires.

NOTE: Copies of "The Leisure Hours of 5,000 People" are available from the Association, price \$1.00.

Keeping Alive Through Drama

BY DR. MILTON SMITH

*Teachers College, Columbia University
New York, N. Y.*

THE discussion of our subject, under the inspiring and firm guidance of our chairman, Clarence A. Perry of the Russell Sage Foundation, was most enthusiastic and helpful. The suggested questions in the program were quite rigorously and wisely adhered to and most of them seemed to have been answered to the satisfaction of the majority of us.

The first question, whether or not amateur drama has suffered during the depression, was first considered and the general impression seemed to be that while it may have suffered, it has not decreased. In fact, the depression, with its resulting idleness and enforced leisure and mental slump, has seemed to increase the demands. Amateur dramatics have a real morale sustaining

value. Evidence to this effect was offered by Mrs. Elizabeth Peeples of Washington, our first speaker, and by delegates from many cities and villages throughout the country. There seem to be hundreds or thousands of performers and thousands or tens of thousands of auditors. Dramatics have been and are being used widely by welfare bureaus, recreation departments, playgrounds, church and school centers, and so on.

Our second speaker, Miss Ruth Swezey of Wilkes-Barre, advocated the drama tournament as a method of bringing new groups into the movement and as a possibility of encouragement for less well-organized groups. It seemed to be a general opinion that tournaments have a possibility of great publicity value, offer opportunities for the development of leadership and give chances for the expression of interests that might otherwise not exist. Tournaments are sometimes held in towns, sometimes in rural communities, or sometimes they may cover the entire state. The point was made by several delegates that the tournament was only a means to an end, to interest more and more people in drama as a means of recreation. The point was several times made that we make the attempt to get beyond tournaments, dropping when possible the sometimes objectionable contest and award elements, and holding festivals instead, festivals where people who love the theatre and the practice of it may come together to show each other what they have done, without competition, and to compare notes, to demonstrate, to study, and to increase their technical information and proficiency. Festivals of this sort have already replaced tournaments in Philadelphia, in Westchester County, New York, and in other places. The point was several times emphasized that tournaments have greatest value for the participants only when they lead on to further study and efficiency, and the implication seemed to be clear that they may be bad if they result in disappointment or a feeling of inferiority.

L. R. Harrill of Raleigh, North Carolina, thought that the value of short institutes,

the next question we considered, depended on both the instructor and the pupils, but the point was made by him and by others that the true value of these short dramatic institutes was rarely perceptible immediately, but that the result of the seed thus sown, if the seed is good and the ground not *too* barren—and perhaps slightly watered by the rains of favorable chance—often sprang up in good dramatic fruit months, or even years, later.

At this point, as always, the question of royalty suddenly thrust its ugly head on the scene, and was briefly discussed—probably too briefly for those to whom it is still a pain, and at too great length for those to whom it has become a bore. Since nothing can or perhaps should be done about it, the obvious answer seems to be either to find plays on which royalty is not demanded or to work out some method of paying it. Mr. Kirkham of Salt Lake City, however, made a suggestion, new to many of us, of the possibility of paying royalty wholesale or buying the rights to certain plays for a certain definite group for a stated period of time. Perhaps this possibility should be discussed, especially in organizations covering wide territories, although there are obvious objections to such a scheme in many situations.

Miss Hester Proctor of San Francisco, in introducing the discussion on children's plays, suggested that there should probably be no formal plays before the age of 10 or 12 and that children's plays should not be too elaborately costumed. The

discussion on this point as to the age of beginning formal dramatic work with children seemed to arouse much interest and some heat. It seems to me that perhaps some of the difficulty resulted from a lack of definition, and a resulting confusion between *playing* and the *presenting of plays*. The formal presenting of a play demands a maturity—the ability to read, a certain recognition of form, and so forth, which does not occur until children are 10 or 12, but they are certainly never too young to play. With the beginning of

An unusually colorful drama exhibit attracted much attention and comment at the Congress this year. Examples of theatre craft on display were a collection of masks made by Charles Wells of the National Recreation Association and a model stage, the work of George H. Williams of the Theatre Work Shop of the Works Division, Department of Public Welfare, New York City. The stage model was a miniature replica of a set used in the production of "Wappin' Worf" which was produced on a movable stage in New York City parks last summer. The use of colored lights thrown on the inexpensive materials which draped the booth was a practical as well as an arresting feature of the exhibit. Collections of plays and production books, conveniently arranged, were in continual use throughout the Congress.

formal dramatics, which is marked, I believe, by the study of a definite, previously written script, in the attempt to bring it to life on the stage—whether that stage be one end of a school room, or a Ford truck, or a Broadway playhouse—we are beginning to practice the art of the theatre; and it is this great eternal art with its synthesis of all the other arts and crafts—such as literary composition, acting, directing, designing, painting, dressmaking, carpentry—that gives the study and practice of the theatre such widespread interest and that makes many of us so enthusiastic about it as an instrument of culture and recreation.

In conclusion, if a summarizer may summarize his summary, the underlying note of our meeting was hopefulness and progress, and it was very inspiring to learn of the many interesting ways the theatre is being used.

**If I Had Full Power to Represent the People of the
City in Which I Live and a Measure of
Financial Freedom in Helping Them
Toward Abundant Living What
Would I Do?**

BY DAVID CUSHMAN COYLE

*Consulting Engineer
New York, N. Y.*

Two phases of the subject were discussed in the meeting; one relating to technique, the other to attitudes. It appears that the subject was understood to mean, "What would I do if I had a chance?"

Apparently there was general agreement that the leaders of recreation should call in, so far as they can, the advice and the help of the people themselves, particularly the unemployed—the people who are going to be re-created—to find out by surveys what they are now doing, what kinds of things they are attempting to do with such facilities as there are, what are their desires in regard to opportunities for recreational and educational activities of all kinds.

From a survey you can get an idea of what the tastes of the people are, and from the people—now that there are so many unemployed, and so many of them have nothing to occupy their minds with except worry—you can get a considerable number of leaders who are capable of doing large quantities of work, and for nothing.

The people bring forward leadership if they are given an opportunity. All they need then is a

certain amount of facilities and supervision to see to it that the kinds of things they want to do are done under such conditions as bring about an improvement in their cultural level—improvement in their opportunities; that the people who come up for leadership shall be coordinated; that personal and organizational jealousies shall be smoothed out, so far as possible, and the whole movement allowed to go ahead without unnecessary confusion.

The point was brought out that the young people of the community are the people who hold the future, and that there are ten millions of them who are neither in college nor employed—who have nothing to do—who can be gotten to do community work as volunteers to help clean up the town.

So far as the technique of handling recreation was concerned, all that this topic led the people into was a general statement of how they would like to run a recreation program. Very little was contributed here that I imagine hasn't been said in your other meetings, but this question about the young people brought up some important points.

Two young men who were present were asked to make some remarks. One of them said that he approved of the idea of asking the people what kind of things they want and he believed that the E.R.A. relief should be continued so that the programs could be carried on without being obliged to stop.

The other stated that he had attended many of the meetings and he expressed himself as follows: "The trouble with the people in this conference is that you are all old-fashioned. You make plans for recreation as you hoped to do it under the old regime—you make plans for restoration under the old regime, in which you hope you will be able to do better than you did before, and there isn't going to be any old regime any more." He suggested that you let the young people plan their own recreation on a four-point program that he had in mind, education, recreation, recreational adjustments, and self-help in the method of finding work. (That struck me a little cold because it is going a bit far to say "four" points. Some one else would have a different number.) And he said you could get it at a minimum of cost.

Now I take the liberty of making a few remarks about the comments of this young man. In the first place, I like young people and I have a couple of them of my own. I like their point of

view and I like this fellow, and I want to state that. And yet he "gummed the whole works" when he said you can get it at a minimum cost.

In summing up, the chairman mentioned several points that were underlying the kind of things that had been said and the misunderstandings that had been brought out. He said that we can't operate this country at all until we have a new economic order in which we must have a rising standard of living. We must have security for old age; we must encourage science and invention to release people, not in order to create unemployment, but to create an opportunity to transfer people to the occupations that make civilization, to jobs in which they can operate to improve it—not only the recreational but all the cultural opportunities of the people—and be paid for doing it.

It may be inspiring to you to feel that there are ten million young people full of idealism in this country who can be gotten inspired to go forward. As somebody said, "They write to Washington and ask, 'How can we marry if we haven't any job?'" And we can inspire them to go out and get jobs and improve the community as volunteers, in helping to clean up the dark spots and to move forward the thing which we have turned over to them in such a mess.

Now, there are some things which ought to be said about it. It is inspiring to think of ten million young people living on public service, love and idealism and fresh air, but it is ridiculous to consider that young people ought to be asked to live on love and enthusiasm and idealism, without money. How are they going to marry if they haven't any money?

Moreover it is ridiculous to consider that the community should attempt to operate on a minimum cost of operation. It is all right, I know, when you do it with your boards. You have got to talk as though you thought it were desirable to run on an economical basis. As Galsworthy once said, "The only safe place for the human tongue is in the cheek," but you realize that it is ridiculous to consider that low cost is a measure of the

The consensus of opinion expressed at the Congress meeting at which lay boards were discussed coincides with that of the Board of Directors of the National Recreation Association which several years ago voted unanimously that "in general, other conditions being equal, it is the policy of the Association to advise cities to provide for some form of recreation board or committee made up of members serving without pay; that recreation in itself is of such vital importance, so distinct a phase of human life, that like education it needs in each community a group of thoughtful, able representative laymen who shall follow closely the work of the executive staff and advise with reference to policies to be followed."

advisability of a program. We have got to spend money for security; we have got to spend money for making decent civilization in this country. The engineers have discovered Aladdin's lamp, and if you are afraid to spend the money that is necessary to do the things that ought to be done, the lamp won't work.

The young people some day are going to hold the future in their hands, but

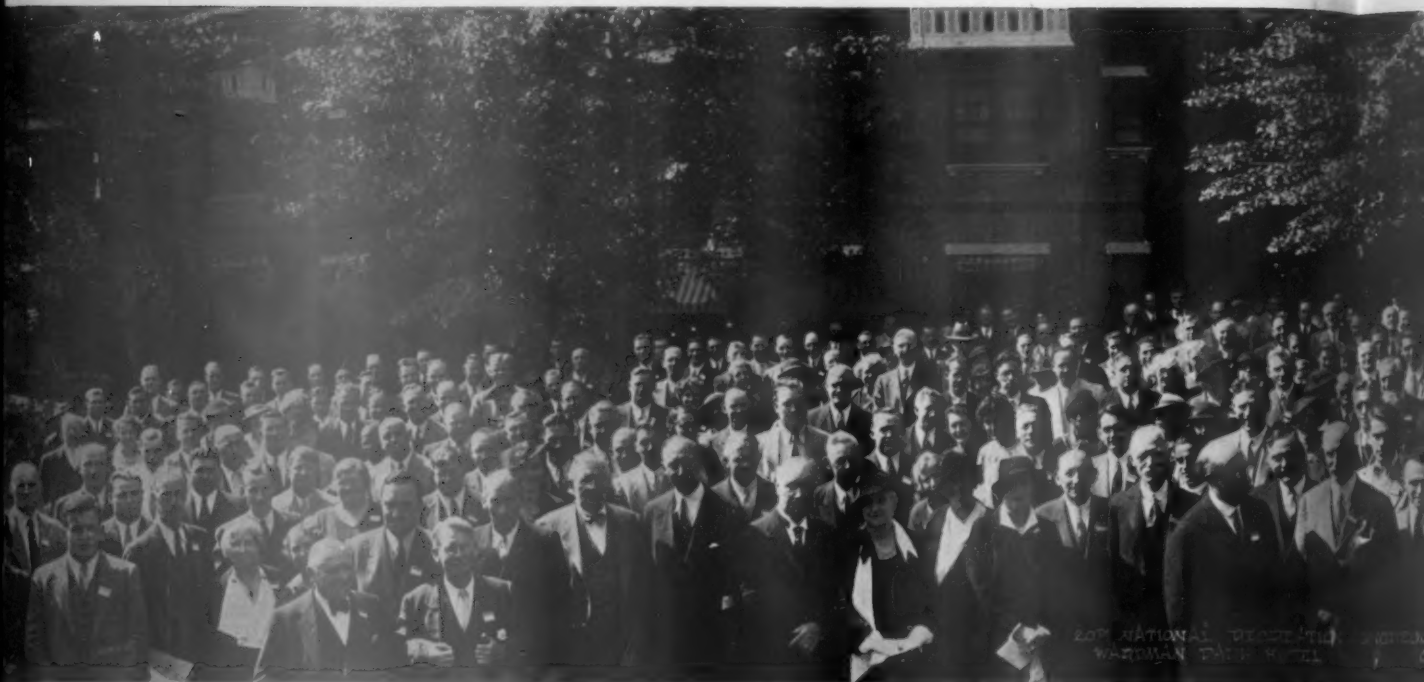
don't let us get inspired with the grand idea of turning it over to the young people. We are responsible, and no others, for the next ten years. We will make or break this civilization. We will turn it over to these young people ten years from now going strong and headed for a new outburst of culture or we will turn it over to them in an unholy mess. It is our responsibility and no others. Ten years from now it will be their responsibility—right now it is ours, and nobody else's!

What Are the Gains, If Any, in Having Special Lay Boards or Commissions in City Governments Charged with Responsibility for Working on the Special Problems of Schools, Parks, Recreation?

BY PETER DOWDELL

*Chairman, Recreation Commission
Scranton, Pa.*

THE majority of recreation systems throughout the country are operated under three different types of boards or commissions: First is the lay board that is purely advisory; it has no power to tax nor to employ but its activities make friends for recreation and it is useful. Second is the lay board with administrative powers, using appropriated funds; this type has the power to determine policies and to employ personnel—sometimes with the approval of the city officials. Boards with rotating terms of office are as a general rule more effective and a greater power to the community. Third is the legal board with power to levy taxes, to hire and "fire" personnel and to determine



Delegates to Twentieth National Recreation Congress

policies. This type of board is generally found where schools are responsible for the recreation program of the community.

In the general discussion, it was brought out that with the third type of board, recreation was usually secondary and in many places recreation was sacrificed when tax funds were low. The consensus of opinion was that the second type of board was most favorable for recreation.

Of special interest was the discussion of the question, "Which is more desirable and effective in its results, a lay board or a department head as is sometimes found under the city manager form of government?" Apparently there has not been much experience with the department of recreation without a lay board and with the executive in charge responsible only to a city manager or city executive. However, most experience with the latter form of management has not been favorable, and it was generally agreed that lay boards, non-political and representative of the people, are necessary under any form of government.

Lay boards, when active and interested, can add much to the recreational program of any community. They can make and adopt policies and programs that appeal to the masses, thus making

friends for recreation. They can be of great help in solving the problems that arise sooner or later in any organization—and we all know that two heads are better than one.

They can assist in solving financial problems and, being non-political, are in a position to carry their fight to the people of the community when there is danger of having budgets cut or eliminated entirely. People of wealth or means are more likely to give land, building or money to a community for recreational purposes if they know that this money or property will be administered wisely by a lay board and not be subject to politics.

A lay board can be far more effective than a single individual when politics threaten to disrupt a recreational program.

The general discussion brought out very strongly that a board or commission of representative people of the community whose sole purpose is the promotion of recreation is most desirable and effective in its results. In conclusion, it was agreed that civic consciousness and the standard set by the people of the community really determine the success or failure of any system of recreation.



Wardman Park Hotel, Washington, D. C., October 3, 1934

What Parks Are Doing for Abundant Living

BY ERNEST K. THOMAS

Superintendent of Parks, Providence, Rhode Island

THERE were eleven questions listed on the program for discussion at this group meeting but time permitted for consideration of only two or three. The following are the high spots:

1. The motto of the American Institute of Park Executives indicates that park executives have an understanding of the contribution which parks may make to abundant living. It is—"To make more abundant facilities for a more expressive life for all."

2. The ideal towards which park executives are working is to secure at least one acre of land to be used for park purposes to each 100 of the population. Very few municipalities, counties, or states have approached this standard as yet, and most communities have not yet come within 50% of this ideal.

3. Rapid strides have been made in recent years in acquiring for public use forever, large areas such as represented in our national parks and forests. States, counties, and municipalities are also rapidly acquiring new areas for public park purposes.

4. This movement of acquiring new areas for park purposes must go on for some time to come

before any adequate amount of property is acquired and dedicated to park purposes for the leisure time use of the people.

5. How to finance the maintenance of park areas and new areas to be acquired in the future is a problem facing all park executives. The most widely accepted policy seems to be that federal, state, county, and municipal governments shall make the capital expenditures necessary to acquire and develop parks for a variety of recreational uses and that those who make use of special features provided such as golf, tennis, various sports and games, picnic grounds, camping sites, fishing, swimming pools, bath houses, music, concerts, dramatics, nature study and a number of other recreational facilities shall help support them, in part at least, by paying nominal fees.

6. It has been observed for a number of years, and especially in the last few years when large numbers of our people are bearing heavy burdens brought about by unemployment, that larger numbers seek those areas in parks which are kept in a more or less natural condition, or where there are beauty spots such as rose or other special gardens, or where the environment is beautiful, quiet and peaceful. It is in such environments that our people may get physical, mental and spiritual refreshment which helps sustain

their morale and gives to them a new courage to meet their own personal problems.

7. It was in an environment of peace, quiet and beauty that the Almighty intended that his children should live. Cities and congested areas provide an unnatural environment for the genus homo. This is a biological fact that can be demonstrated by observing the behavior of people whenever the following factors are present: First, large areas in parks, away from the centers of population; second, an inexpensive means of transportation; and third, time—leisure time.

When these factors are all available to our people, young and old will flock in thousands to areas where only the simplest facilities are provided, such as picnic grounds, camp sites and nature trails, leaving behind them the cities with their recreational equipment and facilities and organized programs. Parks and recreational facilities in congested areas are often very little used over the week-ends, and on holidays and Sundays. It is on Sundays, for example, that many swimming pools are drained for cleaning purposes when there is no demand for their use.

8. Are we in danger of being misled in our planning by inadequate thinking on recreational facilities and programs for the use of the public? Are we spending too much time in planning and organizing for the recreational use of the people without sufficient basic knowledge of the natural desires and biological impulses of the people we aim to serve? May I suggest that such questions as these are fundamental and an intelligent understanding of them is essential to all boards and executives who are concerned with the planning, development and supervision of recreation for the public.

Recreation executives themselves may well seek out these retreats in quiet, peaceful surroundings for the purpose of study and a great deal of hard, straight thinking on the spiritual and biological background of human nature in order that we may hope to understand a little more about what is necessary for the best physical, mental, moral and spiritual development of our people to the end that they may be as happy as possible in this mundane world.

Increasing the Recreation Service Program Through Volunteer Leadership Supplementary to the Leadership of Employed Staff

BY GEORGE J. FISHER

*Deputy Chief Scout Executive, Boy Scouts of America
New York, N. Y.*

THIS session was well attended and the discussions were lively and apropos to the subject discussed. One noted a very marked advance in the sympathetic attitude toward volunteer service on the part of professional leaders. In the past, discussions have emphasized largely the negative aspects of volunteer service. It was implied then that it was too casual, too uncertain, too superficial. In these discussions there was a distinctively positive note. Testimony was given regarding the loyalty, the efficiency, the values and the permanency of such service under proper guidance.

There was general implication that the volunteer in recreation had risen to a large place in the present situation. The increased amount of time available for recreation, the tremendous volume of activities to be directed—and now the great variety of activities included in recreation are responsible for this emphasis. There is no time like the present; this is the day; this is the hour. There must be raised up a vast army of leaders to give intelligent and human and spiritual leadership to the new leisure movement.

Along with these increased opportunities are decreased budgets. The cost of professional leadership on a large scale is prohibitive. Much of this service therefore must perforce be voluntary. Perhaps it is better so, for if we had all of the money that we wanted to spend, it might be that this movement would be too mass, too crass, too impersonal.

But voluntarism in recreation is desirable for its own sake. The voluntary principle is the democratic principle. It is in line with our national traditions. It is distinctly American in its part and spirit.

The modern note in recreation is to help people find entertainment and romance and adventure. It must, in part, be personal, cultural, life enriching.

In presenting his summary, Dr. Fisher said, "I would like as a national officer of the Boy Scouts of America to bring the friendly greeting of that organization to this Association because we are deeply indebted to many men who are in this organization who were charter members of this movement. And we have in our own movement honored your executive by awarding him the award of the silver buffalo because of his recognized place as a leader of justice in the life of a nation."

Children must learn by doing, and there must be opportunities for the creative, for exploration and for personal achievement.

There was very definite evidence that in the future there would be more rather than less voluntary service in the recreational movement. This is essential to meet the feeling on the part of many youths—including the unemployed—of a sense of uselessness. In recreation these youth can be given worthwhile tasks to perform that bring with them the sense of helpfulness to others, of having something to share with others. This is a constructive antidote for the restlessness and sense of futility among youth.

What youths fail to find in their vocation they may find increasingly in their avocations. Here volunteer service in recreation rises to new heights in its potential possibilities for developing character and happiness and abundant living. Its tools are so tangible, its activities are so real, its spirit is so buoyant that it contributes to the certitudes of life. It substitutes in part the service motive for the gain motive. It is securing the larger life through service.

It was generally conceded that the modern executive in recreation will be noted primarily for his skill in recruiting and inspiring volunteer leadership.

The burning question that always arises in discussions of voluntary service is, "Can we have all that is fine in voluntarism—its unselfishness, its high motive—and yet have such service in line with modern educational and social service technique?" There is the hub of the volunteer problem; mere good intentions on the part of men and women will not suffice. Volunteers must be trained for service. This was the heart of the discussion.

Techniques have been devised for training volunteers for efficient service. Probably the most heartening aspect of the whole recreation movement is the genius that is being displayed in training volunteer leaders for specific tasks and even in the training of leaders who in turn will train other leaders. Unique plans were reported for training game leaders, song leaders, leadership in the crafts, leadership of groups — "group motivation."

Every recreation movement will have the training of its volunteer leadership bulk large in its program in the future. What hitherto has been done in this direction sparingly should and will

be done tomorrow in a generous fashion. This is a distinct trend it seems to me. This conference has revealed it at many points.

I was very much surprised to hear that ninety-seven per cent of the leadership in the rural communities must of necessity be volunteer.

Volunteer service then will always be preceded by training for such service. Here we must show genius and special ability for in this direction lies progress—great progress. It is the means by which the cause will be made persuasive. Because of this increased function by the professional leader there was a distinct request for literature dealing with the professional leader's relation to the volunteer, suggesting principles, policies and programs.

In conclusion, the best way to develop leadership in America is to have the youth experience leadership. The recreation field is a most experimental field for practice in leadership. That dealing with the volunteer has its problems it was acknowledged; dealing with the human is the most difficult problem in the world, but as John Finley has said, "It will be more difficult to train people to use their leisure rightly than it has been to train them to labor efficiently."

What College and University Courses Are Desirable for Men and Women Who After College Training Are Immediately to Become Play and Recreation Leaders?

BY LEE F. HANMER

Director, Department of Recreation, Russell Sage Foundation, New York, N. Y.

THE predominating note in the discussion registered as desirable for all recreation workers: 1. A broad, basic, cultural training. 2. An understanding of social and civic problems. 3. A high personality rating. 4. Special courses in the technique of conducting the types of activity in which the individual proposes to serve.

Specially trained workers for the different activities were considered essential but such training should be given in postgraduate or senior year courses. The training of recreation executives for administrative work is in quite a different category from the training needed for play and recreation leadership in the wide variety of activities. For this reason the National Recreation Association has established its National Rec-

recreation School for executives, which provides graduate training courses.

It was deplored that qualification requirements and salaries for recreation workers are not now generally commensurate with these desired standards of training. They should at least compare favorably with those for public school teaching.

It was suggested that for all college and university students there should be required courses designed to prepare each individual for the wholesome and satisfying use of his or her own free time. In addition to the personal benefits that would accrue, such training would help to develop a public more responsive to adequate provision for play and recreation and its efficient administration.

Just as colleges and universities are now providing advanced courses in music, medicine, architecture, engineering, etc., so should they also offer courses for recreation administrators and leaders of special play activities. The registration for such courses would no doubt be responsive to the professional opportunities in that field, as is the case in the other professions. These courses should provide for practical laboratory work in the conduct of activities, and should definitely include research in play and recreation problems. Courses in this field should be addressed to: '1. Personal needs of the student. 2. Social needs. 3. Professional needs.

It was suggested that a responsibility rests upon the public schools to teach all the children plays and games, develop skills, and stimulate special interests that will tend to equip them for the wholesome use of free time both as children and adults. The function of public recreation then would become primarily that of providing facilities for recreation and administering them, rather than teaching activities; although that would of necessity continue to be a part of the task in the growth and development of recreation programs. Just as the training for professional social work should include an understanding of the play and recreation needs of the people, so should the training for recreation administration and leadership provide for instruction in the basic principles of personal and family adjustment and welfare.

At the First International Recreation Congress in Los Angeles in 1932 a group of workers met for a discussion of special recreation engineering problems. Those present felt the need for more frequent opportunities to discuss problems of this sort and requested the Association to help make this possible. Consequently a meeting was arranged at the recent Congress in Washington which was devoted to a discussion of engineering problems involved in the development of recreation areas.

Play and recreation administration and leadership is in reality a practical form of social work, and in the expanding field of free time service is destined to become increasingly so.

Substantial contributions to our group discussion of this subject

were made by recreation executives, representatives of institutions offering courses in play and recreation, and many others who have had wide, practical experience in training recreation workers and conducting activities.

As another evidence of its efficient service, the National Recreation Association has prepared a suggested four year college course for those planning to go directly into recreation work. The Association's comments on this subject and the courses proposed are in complete harmony with the conclusions reached by our discussion group. Multigraphed copies of that outline of courses are available for those who are interested.

Recreation Engineering Problems

BY GILBERT CLEGG

Playground Engineer, City of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

EVEN as all Gaul is divided into three parts, the recreation engineering problem divides itself into two parts. There are the details of construction—stubborn facts that may make or break a playground. Drains that don't drain; a surface that blows away on wash day; tennis courts that crack; field house doors that swing the wrong way; bubblers that don't bubble—you know the whole list. The second part is that less tangible but probably more important thing called the general plan or design. It is that interrelation of size and arrangement of the various activity areas to the site, the type of neighborhood, the kind of supervision, and the size of budget.

Our group began with the details, perhaps because of the suggested questions for discussion and perhaps because the details cause the director so much grief and in this meeting he hoped to find a remedy for his troubles. It early became evident that because of the variation in local conditions, materials, prices and climate, an exchange of blue prints and specifications is of little value unless all the related facts bearing upon the situa-

tion are known. This does not mean that California can't help Massachusetts, or that our discussion was wasted time. Far from it, but because situations alter conditions, I shall only touch the high spots of the discussion with emphasis upon principles involved.

Surfacing. A lengthy discussion of surfacing showed that the impervious type of all-weather surfacing such as concrete, asphalt or tar macadam should be used only where absolutely necessary to withstand the wear and that turf or porous surfacing such as sand and clay or crushed tile and clay should be used wherever it will stand up.

Tennis Courts. It was the almost unanimous agreement that tennis players prefer a *good* clay court to a hard surfaced court, but in several instances the players despite their expressed preference actually took the hard surfaced courts. All-weather surfacing is in high favor with recreation directors because of the low maintenance cost and, in maintenance, concrete is cheaper than asphalt or tar macadam. It is recognized that the success of a concrete court depends upon sound engineering and honest, careful construction.

Lighting. Flood lighting of tennis courts and play areas is increasing in popularity but at present there is no standard of light intensity, type of unit, or location. The trend is toward setting the lamps higher above the play area.

Backstops. As with the lighting equipment, the range of sizes and shapes of baseball backstops varies widely. Under city conditions it has been found necessary and practical to reduce the distance from home plate to the backstop to as little as fifteen feet and have an overhang extend over the batter. In Detroit the wire fabric of the overhang is allowed to hang loose to soften the rebound of foul tips.

Portable Bleachers. The advisability of building home-made portable bleachers is a local problem

depending upon the available labor and ability to secure good material at a reasonable price. Tampa, near the cypress mills, can afford to do it; Detroit can't. Before building any bleachers the question of liability for patent infringement should be passed upon by the recreation department's attorney.

Fireplaces. Outdoor fireplaces were discussed and apparently many have been built without a knowledge of whether they would be used by small family parties or large organized groups. As a result many fireplaces are too big and the fuel consumption is exorbitant. Fireplaces where wood is available should be designed to permit enjoyment as an open fire after the meal is cooked.

Wading Pools. The maximum depth of water in wading pools favored by the majority present ranged from 12 to 18 inches with a few champions of depths to three feet. The deeper pools present a drowning hazard unless under constant supervision.

It is notable that either because of lack of time or the relative importance on a supervised playground, the word apparatus was never mentioned during the discussions.

Probably the outstanding fruit of the discussion of recreation engineering problems was the recognition of proper planning as a basis of successful recreational areas. Miss Josephine Randall of San Francisco pointed out that we have worked out with great detail methods and programs and have developed experts upon these matters, but little attention has been given to the problem of the physical planning. She suggested that there

is a field for a new specialist called a *Recreation Engineer* who would meet this need. Mr. M. C. Huppuch of the National Park Service emphasized the importance of good design as a means of holding down maintenance costs — an important consideration in



view of the great amount of work now done with federal aid.

It was generally agreed that play areas should be the result of the collaborative efforts of the trained recreation director, the building architect, the engineer, and the landscape architect. Ideally they should start collaborating before the site is selected. Having the site, the recreation director will list the required facilities, activities and equipment; the landscape architect will design the area as a harmonious composition recognizing practical requirements and esthetics; the architect will plan the buildings; and the engineer will dictate the structural requirements. The questions of what and how to surface, depth of wading pool, kind of tennis courts will be determined to meet the individual requirements. It will be a tailor-made playground rather than a mail order product.

All will work together and their meeting of minds will produce results far beyond the mediocrity of ill planned areas all too often encountered and accepted as satisfactory. We have a rare opportunity to raise the accepted standard, improve public taste, and, what is more, have a better recreational area.

The Recreation Executives' Meetings

BY V. K. BROWN

*Superintendent of Playgrounds and Sports
South Park Commission,
Chicago, Ill.*

THE mobilizing of the nation might well be reported as the theme of the recreation executives' meetings on the initial day of this conference. Cooperation was the subject of the first session which gave testimony to the general determination that out of our bitter experience of material want we shall move unitedly toward a compensating spiritual betterment in our social order.

The progress reports of that first assembly were all concerned with the pooling of thought and effort to use our increased freedom to think and act together. They widened the trend of agencies to work toward team rather than individual and isolated efficiencies. The business of living more effectually, engaging city planners, welfare workers, recreation leaders and even groups seeking further light on international relations, was put into evidence, each community standing on its right to discover, mature, and act

upon, its own plans for its special needs even to the suggestion that private organizations use public facilities where the public itself cannot provide for promoting intensive use, as a precursor proving plant for the public agency's later developments.

Some of the problems of interpretation of government regulation and operation where government funds provide for manning of local works—problems of morale maintenance, of compensation inequalities, of materials provision and of selection of qualified workers—were frankly faced as inherent in the use of relief help. The duty of using such help in a cooperating spirit with the national relief administration was recognized, but so was the danger to the local situation of such overmanning of service as would make for relieving communities of the salutary sense of responsibility for self-sufficiency in directing their own leisure, and warnings were voiced against such opulence. Fees and charges were discussed, and even the subject of responsibility for accidents and for treatment for injuries came in for attention.

It is quite evident, I think, that in the struggle of the human spirit to reinterpret life—the struggle now going forward—a call to the colors is enlisting us all in a movement, not of shock troops, but of a people as a whole. It is apparent, I submit, that the feeling is becoming almost universal that perhaps the most momentous event in the life of this generation was not the shot at Sarajevo, but that day when the supreme court of a people devoted to economic individualism declared constitutional the principle of a graduated income tax and in so doing sounded the death knell of unregulated freedom in the pursuit of economic gain as a life purpose. We are becoming increasingly aware of the staggering significance of that act, I think—of the fact that it rang the curtain down on an era in human history and repolarized civilization. Getting, by that act, was doomed as the basic service as might tend toward recreational dependency or toward a weakening expectation of continuing and economically insupportable permanent paternalism in service.

Federal representatives spent hours interpreting the spirit and aims of the government's organized efforts to aid the communities facing relief necessities too great for local and unassisted resources to provide. Both federal and local rep-

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A Children's Christmas Party

By THOMAS W. LANTZ
Superintendent of Public Recreation
Reading, Pa.

"WHAT a delightful affair!" "The best Christmas party for children in years!" These and many other commendable statements were made by children and adults alike last Christmas in Reading, Pennsylvania.

Each year the Department of Public Playgrounds and Recreation of the municipal government invites 1,200 children to a Christmas party held in the spacious City Hall auditorium. The children are selected by the visiting nurses who in turn present each poor child with a free ticket of admission. The tickets are printed by the Recreation Department. In addition to the children selected by the Visiting Nurse Association, children from institutions such as orphanages and correctional institutions are also invited.

The auditorium is decorated for the occasion, as it is the day before Christmas. A large evergreen tree beautifully lighted and decorated with colored balls graces the stage. Other small evergreens, holly and laurel flooded with colored lights from the balcony make the environment most pleasing to the eye.

A master of ceremonies, usually the superintendent of recreation, leads the children in the singing of Yuletide songs. The words and music are flashed upon the screen. A good accompanist aids greatly in enlivening the music. Do the children sing "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing," "O Little Town of Bethlehem" and many other familiar carols? Well, they can't get enough! One surely gets a thrill just to witness this part of the program.

The Mayor is then introduced to the entire group. A few chosen words of greeting from him bring tremendous applause from the happy crowd. Several more carols are sung before the next feature event takes place.

Last Christmas in cooperation with the local Story League we were able to bring "The Red Gate Shadow Puppets" from New York City. The department and the Story League shared the expense which was not exorbitant and

yet most worth while. The department had its program in the morning while the Story League held its own party for

members, friends and their children exclusively.

"The Red Gate Shadow Puppets" were without doubt the most artistic and most successful presentation we have ever experienced. The shadow play is an ancient art and dates back to 121 B. C. in the Court of an Emperor of China. It was presented from behind a translucent screen with figures delicately carved from donkey skin parchment and colored with transparent lacquers. "The Red Gate Shadow Puppets" have brought the authentic figures from China and endeavor to retain all the artistic charm of the Orient in their presentations. The program in Reading was accompanied by special music arranged to carry out the atmosphere in terms all could appreciate. The three artists, two to operate the puppets and one to create the music and sounds, have a large repertoire of plays. Three plays were presented before the children, namely, a "Christmas Tableau," a Chinese New Year's number, "The Feast of the Lanterns," and a story, "The Legend of the Willow Plate." The whole feature was exceedingly fresh and delicate. The artists have managed to preserve so much of the naive and quaint quality of the primitive puppets and create such a perfect illusion of authentic Chinese atmosphere that the program had value far beyond that of mere entertainment. Every puppet, gracefully carved and beautifully colored, danced and acted against a silver screen to the accompaniment of choice music, much to the thorough enjoyment of the children.

Dear old Santa Claus is not forgotten. To climax the party, the children sing "Jingle Bells" and a real Santa walks upon the stage with his pack loaded with oranges and candy. Santa is given a rousing reception and then actually talks to the poor children and orphans. Finally "Silent Night" is sung very quietly in a semi-dark auditorium with

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Mr. Lantz, Superintendent of Public Recreation in Reading, Pa., tells in this article how the recreation authorities in that city cooperate with local agencies and institutions in providing a Merry Christmas for the less fortunate Reading children.

The Recreation Executives Discuss Vital Problems

A Digest of the Recreation Executives' Meetings at Washington, D. C.

THE topics for discussion at the recreation executives' meetings were grouped under three headings: 1. Cooperation; 2. The Present Emergency; 3. General and Technical Problems.

Much interest was expressed in the various questions relating to cooperative thinking, planning and action on the part of local agencies in the recreation and leisure time field. The first morning session, which was devoted to a consideration of this problem, was presided over by Tam Deering, Superintendent of Recreation in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Local Machinery for Cooperative Thinking, Planning and Action

Evidence that local recreation executives are increasingly conscious of the value of cooperating with other local agencies in the leisure time field and are actively participating in cooperative efforts was indicated from the reports submitted by a number of workers. Thomas W. Lantz, Superintendent of Recreation in Reading, Pennsylvania, introduced the discussion of this question. He reported on the Leisure Time Division of the Council of Social Agencies in that city. Through this Division, the Superintendent of Recreation has an opportunity to plan cooperatively with the other local agencies. Among the functions of the Division are: Analyzing the jobs of the various agencies, investigating unmet needs, planning neighborhood recreation service, considering problems of boys and girls, conducting training courses, planning for summer camps and day camps, developing leisure time opportunities for youth

and unemployed, promoting play in the home and in the churches. Other projects undertaken by the Division have been the preparation of a spot map of the children reached by different agencies and conducting a study of juvenile delinquency.

Among the accomplishments of the Council of Social Agencies have been the arrangement for a study of Reading agencies by a representative of the National Education-Recreation Council, the bringing of several recreation experts to the city for special projects, an increased education of the public to the importance of recreation and the securing of \$2,000 from the Community Chest for a new recreation center.

The extent to which Councils of Social Agencies are taking the leadership in creating local machinery for cooperative planning and action in the recreation field was further indicated by reports from several other cities. In Washington, D. C., the Council employs a recreation secretary whose task is to promote cooperation among the agencies dealing with the leisure time problem. In Houston, Texas, the Council, although in an embryonic stage, has a clearing committee whose purpose is to obtain desirable cooperation among the local groups. It was reported that the Houston Recreation Department has received much help

from the Council in the securing of needed facilities. The Council also has a committee for keeping in touch with the services of all the group work agencies. Cooperation with the City Recreation Department on the part of the Council of Social Agencies and the Community Fund in St. Paul, Minnesota, was also reported.

In emphasizing the

Following the usual custom, the morning and afternoon prior to the opening session of the Recreation Congress were devoted to a meeting of recreation executives. Participation in the discussion was limited to chief executives of community-wide recreation systems although others were cordially invited to attend. In presenting various questions for discussion, speakers were limited to five minutes each.

A remarkable record in cooperation was made at this meeting. Twenty-seven individuals had promised to help with the program and not a single one failed to be present. The General Chairman for the entire meeting was Charles E. Reed, Manager of the Field Department of the National Recreation Association.

necessity for cooperation, Mr. Deering stated: "It has become clear within the last two years that rugged individualism is now giving way to cooperative effort and recreation executives are no more immune than industrial and labor leaders. They must develop a new technique of cooperative effort. No longer does cooperation mean a single file with the recreation department at the head but a circle within which we all come together."

Two methods of securing joint planning for recreation in Oakland, California, were reported. One is through the organization of former recreation board members into a leisure time group to which have been added a number of people who have a special interest in recreation. The group meets each month for a discussion of recreation problems. The other method is through a council of representatives from different agencies concerned about or dealing with such specific problems as juvenile delinquency.

The need for cooperation was illustrated by experiences reported from two or three cities. In a southern city, for example, the need for a boys' club was being considered. The city had a suitable building but no funds to operate it. One local private agency agreed to supply the equipment and leadership. When plans for the project were nearly completed, the Council of Social Agencies protested that the project fell within the field of two other existing private agencies. It was clear that had there been the machinery for a thorough discussion of the problem in the beginning, serious differences and difficulties might have been prevented. Another instance was cited of a difference of opinion between municipal playground and school authorities, showing a fundamental need for better understanding between the two local boards.

Utilizing Schoolhouses and Facilities for Community Recreation

It was agreed that recreation systems should do more than is now being done in the utilization of schoolhouses and facilities for community recreation. Reports from a number of cities indicated, however, that much progress has been made in securing cooperation to this end. Miss

"In dealing with adult education we must regard the school not as a place where classes are taught but as the center of community life, reflecting the community's interests in music, art, the drama, and current affairs as well as in what we have been accustomed to think of as education."—*Robert M. Hutchins*, President, University of Chicago, in address before the National Education Association, June 1934.

Ruth Swezey, Executive Director, Playground and Recreation Association of Wyoming Valley, Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, pointed out the necessity for cooperation between recreation and school authorities and emphasized the importance of showing school officials that recreation workers are not merely athletic directors. In Wilkes-Barre

the Recreation Director is on the Emergency Education Committee and directs the adult education as well as the recreation program.

Reports indicated close cooperation between recreation and school boards in other cities where, due to a good understanding between them, facilities are furnished by the Board of Education and leadership by the Recreation Department. There were indications, on the other hand, of a need for a closer relationship in order that school facilities may be used most effectively for community recreation.

Adult Education-Recreation Programs

The purpose of this discussion was to determine to what extent and in what ways public recreation bodies were uniting with adult education groups in sponsoring education-recreation programs for adults. Several instances in which recreation was used in connection with adult education programs were cited by E. Dana Caulkins, Superintendent of Recreation, Westchester County, New York. In a citizenship group which he once taught, class singing was introduced as a form of recreational activity. The recreation director in a Michigan lumber town developed an inclusive adult education program. The workshop program under the Westchester County Recreation Commission has come to include much more than handcraft. Classes in international relations and other subjects commonly thought of as adult education are now offered. In administering the emergency education programs under the supervision of the New York State Department of Education, joint local committees for both recreation and adult education subjects and activities have been found advisable.

Recreation workers have had an active part in the emergency education program carried on in the schools of York, Pa., where educational activities are supervised by school authorities and recrea-

tional activities by the recreation director. In Michigan it was reported that under the Emergency Relief Administration, city recreation departments can initiate adult recreation programs. The schools are responsible for definite adult education classes but other activities which have a recreation viewpoint are under the recreation department. Two members of the school staff and two from the recreation department determine under which classification a specific activity belongs. The viewpoint of the members of the class, as to whether the activity is vocational or avocational, largely determines the classification.

There was considerable discussion as to the distinction between recreation and adult education. In Cleveland, Ohio, for the past ten years the Board of Education has made the distinction that if work is being done for credit, it is adult education, whereas if it is being done for interest alone with no credit concerned, it is recreation. "The time has come to draw a line between academic education and recreation," said V. K. Brown of Chicago. "Recreation is an exploratory, adventurous thing and the recreation agency should not assume too much that will give a color of academic education to recreation and establish an expectancy for support by educational institutions."

The chairman asked for a show of hands as to the number of cities represented which had adult education groups. Many hands were raised. Few hands were raised, however, in answer to the question as to how many had taken steps to coordinate the recreation and adult education programs.

Cooperation with City and Regional Planning Commissions

A number of principles to be followed in establishing cooperative relationships with planning groups were outlined by Raymond W. Robertson, Superintendent of Recreation, Oakland, California. Among them are:

1. Relationships in cooperation are dependent upon our attitude. We must establish a personal relationship. Sometimes criticism of a city planning committee for failure to cooperate is merely an excuse for our own shortcoming.
2. It is important to have a fairly definite plan to submit to or discuss with city planning authorities. Often we approach them with only a vague understanding of the problem.
3. It is important to share ideas. Reference was

made to the helpful relationships established between recreation and city planning authorities as a result of the discussions of city planning problems at district conferences.

4. Two-way cooperation is essential. We must not be dictatorial but rather realize that we have a great deal to learn from planning groups.

5. Because each community is a separate unit with peculiar problems, local conditions must be taken into consideration. In Los Angeles various city and county recreation departments are represented on a planning committee.

Excellent cooperation with planning authorities, resulting in definite benefits to city recreation departments, was reported in other cities.

Public versus Private Recreation

The division of responsibility for developing recreation between public and private agencies was discussed by W. Duncan Russell, General Director of Community Service, Boston, Massachusetts. Speaking as the executive of a private organization, Mr. Russell expressed the opinion that any private recreation executive who thinks he is ordained to run public recreation ought to be "thrown out." His objective should rather be to arouse the community to the need for public recreation just as for public education. The private agency should be allowed to take over certain responsibility where the public body is weak, and through private efforts to initiate and develop public support. Likewise it should temporarily take over public facilities where public finances cannot make provision for leadership.

At the present time in many cities drama, music, the fine arts and other activities do not have sufficient support to enable the public agency to provide an adequate program. The private agency can demonstrate the value of these activities by using public facilities and thereby building up support for them as a part of the public program. Provision for mass activities is responsibility of the public rather than of the private agency. The latter must be the proving ground for new activities, according to Mr. Russell. "It can serve as the college into which the public agency graduates the persons who desire more individual work."

The Present Emergency

Problems arising out of the present emergency provided the subject for discussion during the second morning session. Benefits resulting to

local recreation service through improved and increased facilities and through the initiation of new activities and programs were reported from a number of cities. Problems in the use of relief workers on construction and maintenance projects, as well as in positions of recreation leadership, were presented and discussed. Effects of emergency measures upon regular personnel, budgets and programs were cited and changes which should be made in municipal recreation services were outlined.

Representatives of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration were present during the presentation and discussion of these questions by local recreation executives. Called upon to answer a number of the questions which had been raised and to outline the policies governing the use of relief funds for recreation projects, they made a contribution which was of tremendous value to the recreation workers. In fact, so interested was the group in the subject under discussion, that it was voted to devote the early part of the afternoon session to a continued consideration of emergency problems.

Recreation Benefits from the Emergency

Reports from a number of cities indicated that local recreation services have gained greatly as a result of the present emergency. Clarence E. Brewer of Detroit told how in that city last year approximately \$530,000 had been made available from relief funds for labor on recreation projects and \$100,000 additional for materials. Cincinnati has also benefited, the acreage under the Recreation Commission in that city having been increased from 350 to 1,000 acres during the depression years. Materials for developing and improving these areas were obtained from the city through a \$250,000 bond fund. Although the value of the land acquired and developed has not been estimated, the value of the improvements is not less than \$1,000,000. In New York City since January 1, 1934, there have been opened 26 new playgrounds, work on which has been largely done through the

use of relief labor. In Birmingham, Alabama, the facilities in the city's parks have been trebled during the depression, the C. W. A. having proved "a gift from Heaven."

Not only in the improvement and extension of facilities but also in the carrying out of new programs and activities has the emergency contributed largely in a number of cities. Louis C. Schroeder of New York City reported that approximately 2,000 workers are engaged in recreational leadership projects under the Works Division of the Department of Public Welfare of that city. Some 300 of these are working in the schools, 500 in the parks, 800 in welfare organizations, 400 in street play projects and others in day camps. One of the projects which has proved most useful was the street play program which was conducted in areas of high delinquency and which for the first time brought recreational activities near a large number of people. It was reported that approximately 6,000 "white collar" workers are being used in New York City in music, drama, arts and various other forms of recreational activity. In Cincinnati as many as 220 people from relief rolls have served as recreation leaders without any curtailment of the regular personnel. In Birmingham, Alabama, the program this last year was doubled, due primarily to the increased personnel from relief rolls. San Francisco, Chicago, Pittsburgh and a number of other cities likewise reported effective use of relief workers as recreation leaders.

An indirect benefit to public recreation departments growing out of the emergency was suggested by Charles W. Davis, of Berkeley, California. He pointed out that the careful scrutiny of city budgets during the last few years has given recreation authorities an opportunity to inform the public as to the service they are rendering. Analyses of costs have indicated how cheap public recreation is, compared with other public services. Opposition to appropriations for recreation has given an opportunity for demonstrating to the people the value of this service.

In the same connection

"Above all else interest was keen in all the various ramifications of the relief question—how to develop projects for recreational areas and facilities and especially for recreational leadership; how to secure continuity of leadership; how to secure and train the best of the available personnel on relief for recreational leadership; how to fit in to normal recreational organization so that it may endure the great service now being rendered to public recreation through relief. It was questions of these kinds that commanded the real interest and enthusiasm of the superintendents, and the experience of the different cities in all these various questions was eagerly absorbed."

Miss Josephine D. Randall, Superintendent of Recreation, San Francisco, California, presided at the meeting at which *The Present Emergency* was the topic for discussion.

C. R. Wood of Durham, North Carolina, pointed out that in cities where the recreation executives have done a good job and have wisely interpreted their service there has been no question about maintaining it. According to the ability of the recreation executive to interpret his program, especially during the emergency, the city has benefited.

The opportunity which present conditions afford for trying out new experiments was emphasized by several speakers. For many years opportunities for experimentation have been needed and now that we have large numbers of supplementary leaders they provide a means for carrying out experimental projects.

Problems in Use of Emergency Workers

The most serious difficulty reported in connection with the use of emergency workers was due to the inadequate training, experience and personality of many of the individuals who are available for and assigned to recreation leadership projects. Little difficulty was reported in securing persons for construction and maintenance projects but the opinion was expressed by several workers that the service rendered by many relief recreation leaders has a very limited value. The opinion was expressed that if recreation departments had greater freedom in selecting persons from relief lists, part of this difficulty might be eliminated.

On the other hand, reports were received from cities where the executives have considerable freedom of choice and where persons assigned for recreation leadership from relief rolls have, after a period of training, rendered highly satisfactory service. There was general agreement that recreation departments should take advantage of every opportunity to secure workers and give them as intensive training and careful supervision as possible in order that they might render satisfactory service. Special training institutes and courses were reported in many cities.

The problem of securing adequate supervision, especially of persons on leadership projects, was also reported. Several workers who indicated their experience in securing supervisory service stated that it had been possible to secure competent workers in sufficient numbers to assure reasonable success of projects. In New York City, for example, there is a staff of 55 or more supervisors, all of whom have had special training in the physical education or recreation field.

Salaries of these supervisors are \$30 a week for an assistant project supervisor, \$33 per week for a specialist or instructor, and \$36 per week for a supervisor in charge of a project. In San Francisco a director is paid \$35 a week, an assistant director \$30 a week, and other members of the staff \$25 a week. In this city the placement bureau of the relief administration selects persons for service with the recreation department which talks with the leaders, questions them about their special training, interests and experience and assigns them to the particular work for which they are fitted. Very few have had to be sent back to the relief office.

In general, reports indicated that the local relief administrations appreciate the value of recreation leadership projects and have cooperated in assigning workers for them. Some of the smaller communities, however, have apparently not had the same experience. At least two executives in small cities stated that the relief administration is in the hands of engineers who are only interested in construction and development projects.

In some cities a very serious handicap to the planning of recreation projects involving relief leadership has been the delay in securing approval by the local relief administration. On the other hand, the experience in other cities has been that the relief agency has itself approached the recreation authorities, requesting them to carry out projects which would make use of recreation leaders on the relief lists. In Birmingham, Alabama, for example, the Park and Recreation Board was recently reminded that its project was nearing completion and it was suggested that another project be submitted in order that as soon as the present project expires another one might be gotten under way without delay. The Chicago Board of Education was requested by the relief authorities to supervise a project for the use of recreation leaders on the school playgrounds during the summer months, activities to be confined to young children up to eight years of age. Trained kindergarten teachers and recreation workers were made available as leaders for the project. When school opened in the fall the Board of Education was asked to continue the program during the fall and winter months.

Other difficulties which were mentioned as having been encountered but which received little or no discussion were: Lack of uniformity in policy and procedure between different states in the administration of relief funds; inequality of

pay between different types of relief workers; difficulty of maintaining morale among workmen engaged in maintenance projects and especially among trained personnel, such as engineers, engaged in such projects; inability to plan ahead for the effective use of relief workers, due to the lack of continuity in projects and failure to approve plans which would make it possible for partially trained personnel to continue giving recreation leadership service; inability to secure the assignment of competent planning personnel to make sure that the best

available areas are acquired and developed for recreation use; difficulty in securing funds with which to purchase materials essential to the carrying on of work projects.

F. E. R. A. Workers State Relief Policies and Procedures

The presentation by the recreation executives of problems arising from the use of emergency funds and also of their experiences with work programs was followed by a statement of principles and policies adopted by the Federal Emergency Relief Administration. Many practical suggestions were offered as to ways in which local recreation authorities might benefit most from the opportunities offered by the present emergency, especially through the use of relief funds and workers. This presentation proved of tremendous interest and value to the recreation executives and the opportunities for free discussion and the raising of questions did a great deal to clarify their understanding of the situation. It also provided an opportunity for presenting to the federal representatives some of the problems facing local leaders.

The outstanding principles and procedures discussed by the representatives of the F. E. R. A. may be summarized as follows:

The first concern of the F. E. R. A. is to take care of the people who are on the relief rolls—to put people to work. All of the problems and

The representatives of the Federal Emergency Relief Administration who were present at the executives' meeting were Arthur Goldschmidt, Acting Director of Professional Projects, and Miss Chloe Owings, Assistant Director of Women's Work. The statement of F. E. R. A. policies and procedures which appears in the report of the meeting is based largely on remarks made by Mr. Goldschmidt.

In commenting on the attendance of the F. E. R. A. workers, one delegate stated: "Their clear-headedness and sympathy in answering the questions of the executives as to the federal attitude on all these various problems were especially appreciated. It was a happy experience, for evidence was conclusive that the federal administration did appreciate the great value in recreation, did greatly favor all kinds of recreational projects, did wish to use all possible influence with the ultimately responsible local and state administrators so that the problems of project presentation, continuity of project, and selection of personnel could be successfully and happily worked out."

difficulties with which recreation executives have been confronted must be considered in the light of the fact that the job is primarily and essentially a relief job. Jobs cannot be created for non-employed people but only for those actually in need of relief.

The displacement of regular employees by relief workers is definitely disapproved by the relief administration. A city cannot drop workers from regular jobs and expect to have them put back on their jobs as relief workers. This principle should be welcomed by recreation executives because other-

wise cities would cut their recreation budgets by eliminating salaries of workers, with the result that later on there would be the necessity of building up again city support for the recreation program. To shift persons from regular jobs in order to give their places to relief workers merely adds to the relief problem.

The approval of work projects is a local responsibility. This is fortunate inasmuch as centralization at Washington of approval for all projects would be well-nigh impossible. To attempt to review so many projects adequately would cause delays which would greatly interfere with the social usefulness of the projects. The only types of projects for which federal approval must be secured are those of a statistical or survey nature. The reason for this ruling is the desirability of having a national clearing house for information on projects involving research. It was repeatedly emphasized that local and state relief authorities, and not the federal administration, are responsible for the approval of work projects.

How to Submit a Relief Project

Practical suggestions were given as to the procedure necessary in submitting projects for approval. It was pointed out that only public officials should apply because relief money is not available to private agencies.

The first step in submitting a project is to consult the local administrator. All requests for help

should be submitted in terms of a definite project. Requests for personnel needed in connection with the regular recreation department program should not be submitted but only those for a specific piece of work not already being done. On application to the local relief director, a form is secured which must be filled out completely and accurately. The relief administration is supposed to provide only labor but sometimes the local administrator will assist agencies in finding needed materials elsewhere. His job is to use relief funds for paying unemployed. Once a project is approved, the people required to carry it out are sent to the department requesting it.

The fact was emphasized that workers are sent to a department on approval. The department has the right to either accept or reject the personnel sent. If they are accepted and put to work but fail to make good, they may be returned to the relief office. The available relief personnel varies considerably from one city to another. In Los Angeles County, for example, the "white collar" relief load is very high, with the result that many persons competent to serve on recreation projects are available there.

Repeated emphasis was placed upon social usefulness as a desirable asset of a project which is submitted for approval. The greater the degree to which it is likely to be socially useful, the more likely it is to secure widespread popular approval. In considering several projects, the ones which offer the greatest degree of usefulness to the community are likely to be selected.

The employment of supervisors in connection with work projects was discussed at considerable length. Non-relief people can be used for positions as supervisors in connection with relief projects only as their employment makes it possible to use other people on relief for projects that are socially useful. In this respect supervisors are like cement, tools and other necessary materials.

The difference between cities in the degree of supervision provided is due in a large measure to the extent to which the city shares with the federal authorities in providing relief funds. The latitude allowed a municipality in this respect depends somewhat on the amount of money contributed by the local community and the state. "I myself would hesitate placing a full-time pay, non-relief supervisor on a job that didn't employ quite a number of relief people. My own mental picture is that somewhere less than ten per cent

of the total cost of the project should go into other than relief channels."

The delay in securing approval of projects is often due to the great amount of desirable things to be done. The demands for relief money are far in excess of the supply. Often one project cannot be approved until some others are completed. The administrator has a huge task of selecting from the great mass of new applications those which most merit approval. Projects submitted should be so specific as to make their approval a matter of routine without additional checking. Relief officials would welcome the opportunity of doing everything that everybody wants done but with the multiplicity of projects under consideration this is entirely out of the question.

The problem of securing continuity of projects is a part of the same problem and is a difficult one. It is often impossible to anticipate needs and the ability to meet them. Extensions of projects are often delayed because other commitments require all available funds and it is only possible to continue projects when, because others are completed, funds are available with which to continue them.

Localities Must Share Responsibility

The importance of cooperation on the part of states and cities in sharing the relief burden was repeatedly emphasized. Federal funds are not able to carry the entire load. Frequently approval of local projects hinges in part on the disposition of the city to help put up money, materials and supervision—in other words, to go part way in making the project possible.

"This insistence upon state and local participation in funds is something we can't speak too strongly about; the amount of money available for unemployment relief through federal sources is nowhere near enough nor has it been since we began this show for the proper care of unemployment in this country. A community that is willing to put money into this show can go a lot farther than a community that depends entirely upon federal aid. When we say that there is a different picture in one community as against another, we have got to look at the whole picture and the whole picture includes the financing of the work project."

The maximum hours of employment for relief workers are definitely fixed by the federal administration. Manual workers may not be used more

than 24 hours per week and professional, technical and clerical workers not more than 35 hours per week. Recreation executives must assume that people who are to be assigned them are not going to be available for regular full-time use. Many people only work three days a week, so if full-time service is needed executives should ask for twice as many workers. Various adjustments can be made in local assignments in order to meet special needs. For example, persons may be assigned on a monthly rather than a daily or weekly basis. The matter of specific hours can frequently be arranged within the regulations established as to the total number of hours. An example of adjusting hours to special needs was cited in the case of symphony orchestra players who are credited not only with the time spent at concerts but also at rehearsals. Obviously their schedule of hours is subject to considerable adjustment.

Local Assignment Service Being Organized

A promise of help in solving the problem of selecting suitable personnel for positions involving recreation leadership was offered. Relief authorities are anxious to have persons with special abilities on the relief rolls utilized to the best advantage. To this end they are anxious to make available the best qualified persons for use in recreation departments. The F. E. R. A. is attempting to inaugurate an assignment service in the local administrations that will enable persons to be employed on work they are fitted to do. This is a big problem because there are a million and a half people on work relief throughout the country at the present time. The administration is attempting not only to put these persons to work but to maintain their skills which are a natural resource in this country just as our forests and our soil. Even the inclinations of relief persons should be kept for such a time as they may find usefulness in the ordinary channels of affairs.

In discussing the approval of local projects involving planning, it was pointed out that relief persons may be employed on all sorts of projects whether for planning a program or for actually going out and building baseball diamonds or whatever else. It doesn't make any difference to the federal government so long

as the people who are capable of doing the work and eligible for relief are employed on these projects. The relief administrations in a number of cities and in some states are giving additional staffs to planning boards for planning the whole development of the community or the area. Relief engineers are working on projects under the supervision of local and state planning boards for all types of planning. "You can get relief people to make a survey of recreational needs and after the survey has been made and your experts have decided recreational needs are here and there, you can get other relief persons for planning the facilities and then get other relief persons for building the facilities and finally relief persons for staffing the facilities in recreational direction and support."

The Emergency—An Opportunity and a Responsibility

Many valuable comments and suggestions were offered in the course of the discussion of emergency problems. Repeatedly it was urged that recreation executives have a responsibility to cooperate whole-heartedly with the relief authorities. "There is an emergency. People are out of work and they need food. They need an opportunity to do something that they can do. If they are sent to us and can't do these things, we should keep them and place them in positions where they will do us the most good."

The necessity of maintaining standards in the quality of recreation service was also widely recognized. "We have an obligation as leaders in communities where recreation is a governmental function to maintain a certain standard, and the public looks to us, having developed a program, as responsible to them for maintaining that standard."

In the opinion of Grant D. Brandon of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, recreation executives should be fearful of standing in the way of evolution or of trying to block progress. If they do so, they are

likely to be annihilated. He urged that executives should not conscientiously turn down any leadership that can possibly be used. If workers are doing their job effectively they need not fear that emergency workers will take their jobs away from them. "If relief labor should supplant

"If your friends and my friends and your neighbors and mine, who through no fault of their own have been without work, some for months and others for years, could have that encouragement and that warmth and feeling of still belonging that comes so vividly and so reassuringly from actual human contact, we could change the complexion of relief in this country over night."—*John Colt.*

existing paid leadership, it is the latter's own misfortune and to a large extent its own fault."

A warning note was sounded by V. K. Brown of Chicago, who urged that caution should be observed in the assignment of relief leaders. He pointed out that we should work towards community self-sufficiency in its leisure and that there is at present a danger of overmanning facilities and programs now that it is so easy to secure relief personnel for such service. "I believe that we have made some mistakes in overmanning our situations so as to produce recreational dependence, just as an unwise provision of economic support is likely to produce economic dependence."

"I believe we will all agree there is no answer to universal leisure in a program which builds an expectancy and habit into our community of requiring a personal servant to do the work for every activity that is undertaken. Society cannot permanently build its leisure activities on that basis, and I believe our plans should be rather carefully considered to see what the ultimate effect on our community is of the things that we do."

Looking Toward the Future

The question as to the types of projects which should be considered for the immediate future was discussed by Raymond W. Robertson of Oakland. He visualizes the present crisis as a challenge, a time of adjustment, but if executives are competent to meet the situation, they have nothing to fear. If they are not prepared, they must step aside to make room for others. The following changes observed by Mr. Robertson, affecting chiefly adults, indicate future trends. Tennis courts, game courts and other play areas are being increasingly lighted for night use, thereby extending hours of service. Batteries of courts are being developed instead of single facilities, in order to care for larger numbers. Major recreation areas are being developed, serving entire families. More facilities are being provided for hiking, skiing, camping, dramatics, music, arts, literature, crafts and clubs. More should be done in the way of social recreation leadership and in adult recreation to help people have a good time in their own way. Information

service regarding facilities and programs should be increasingly emphasized. Training is more important than ever before, since the relief group needs a great deal of training for recreation service and the regular workers also need it in order to be prepared to meet changing conditions.

Mr. Robertson believes recreation executives should mix more in community life. In addition to doing their job, they should join groups, attend meetings and mingle with community affairs in order to better know what the people are thinking and desiring and also to better coordinate the various recreation services of public and private agencies.

The afternoon sessions were devoted to a discussion of a number of general and technical questions, many of which have been considered in previous meetings. Attendance was high and many executives contributed to the discussion, but it was evident that problems involving co-operation and those growing out of the present emergency situation were commanding a much higher degree of

interest than some of the topics which were discussed during the afternoon sessions which were presided over by James V. Mulholland of New York City, and K. Mark Cowen of Roanoke, Virginia, respectively.

The Value of Influential Lay Groups

Questions relating to the methods used by executives in successfully developing stronger lay support for their program and as to the values of an advisory recreation council in maintaining community interest in recreation developments were discussed by Karl Raymond of Minneapolis. He pointed out that Minneapolis always thought that under its Park Board it had an ideal set-up for recreation. There had never been any serious political interference with the program. During the first two years of the depression no cut was made in the budget but in the third year the recreation program was cut 62% as compared with a 30% or 35% cut for other public services. The fact that this severe cut was due in part to personal disagreement between two individuals did not lessen the seriousness of the situation.

Minneapolis had never had a citizens' organiza-

"I see in this country a new age of pioneering, so much more glorious than that of the old age that there is no comparison, and it is a pioneering that is instinct with greater human riches than anything we have heard of before. It is a pioneering in human relationships, and in that pioneering the surface has just been scratched."—*John Colt.*

tion to back up the local recreation authorities who felt self-satisfied to the extent that they failed to realize the need for a special supporting group. They realized when their budget was cut, however, that the people were not aware of what was going on. People were unable to understand why their demands for additional service were not met by the department. This indicated a weakness in that the authorities had been so busy with the program that they had given no thought to building up public support. The Park Board itself believed in recreation but did not feel that it was of equal importance to other sections of the park service.

As a result of the situation, a Recreation Association has been created in Minneapolis. No professional recreation workers are members but it includes influential and outstanding citizens who recognize the importance of recreation. This group is now strongly organized and recently presented effectively before the city finance board the need for a more adequate recreation appropriation.

The value of lay groups to recreation authorities has been demonstrated in Cleveland. Civic organizations, parent-teacher associations, churches and other groups in that city have been interested in the school centers with the result that they have been ready to support the work. These groups are taken into the centers where they see the activities, the benefits received and the joy of the people served. Before a new center is opened, groups in the neighborhood are invited to make suggestions as to the program, to support it and to bring it to the attention of their people. Members of the Board of Education are also invited to visit centers, to witness special celebrations and to take part in classes. Two members of the Board of Education became interested in and joined an old-time dance group. As a result, when the budget crisis arrived, these two members, appreciating the value of the activities, made a strong appeal for the recreation center appropriation and a cut was avoided. An inter-community center council representing the various centers has also proved an effective means of maintaining a community interest in recreation.

Special Problems Requiring Study and Research

Although most recreation workers are now chiefly concerned with immediate problems relat-

ing to personnel, finance and programs, it was evident that additional information based on special studies and research would be exceedingly useful in the solution of many of these problems. Miss Corinne Fonde of Houston, Texas, suggested that the following fields require special study:

1. How to keep the staff happy, though underpaid.
2. How to secure training for recreational leadership in local colleges and normal schools, when future leadership cannot afford to seek it afar.
3. How to "get through" relief projects.
4. How to make the most of relief workers in view of the greatly reduced supervisory staff and limited materials.
5. How to grasp opportunities which the present situation affords to develop municipal camps.
6. How to develop stronger lay support.
7. How to find the time necessary to effect possible coordination with other agencies.
8. How to care for certain individuals who fall in the "no man's land" between the case work and the group work agencies.
9. How to conduct community recreation centers.
10. How to develop F. E. R. A. projects involving higher skills.

Miss Fonde mentioned that the executives look to the National Recreation Association for leadership and assistance in this field and welcome reports of studies. It was suggested that recreation developments in other countries afforded a promising field for research at the present time.

Standardization of Recreation Activities

V. K. Brown of Chicago opened the discussion of the question, "Is it time for recreation leaders to list a series of activities that should be made fairly general and yet leave room for individuality and change? What are such activities?"

In Mr. Brown's opinion this is primarily a local problem. If the recreation department has adequate minimum standards and thoroughly competent leaders, it may not be necessary to make such a list. Employees in public recreation, however, are often surrounded by an atmosphere of relaxation and they must be kept from its deaden-

ing influence. In the South Park System it was necessary at one time, in view of the rather unsatisfactory staff, to outline a definite uniform program to be carried out in order to overcome the lack of initiative and to make sure that there was a minimum of variety in the program. Employees are now authorized, however, to specialize and the standardized program has been somewhat relaxed. In Mr. Brown's opinion minimum requirements in the way of prescribed activities to be carried on are necessary in all but the very best departments.

Changing conditions require constant variations in program content. Old programs have been rendered obsolete by the new conditions under which instead of idle hours people now have idle half days. People will do a wider variety of things and they will do them more intensively than they have heretofore. The criteria of any list of activities are that it must be balanced, that it must include the basic fields, such as the physical, the recreative, the music, the dramatic, the crafts, and also the fields of the intellectual, the exploratory and the altruistic. Also, such a list must be seasonally varied. It must encourage specialization and answer the questions as to its values in discipline, self-control and the development of proficiencies.

An activity which has proved exceedingly worth while and popular in Reading, Pennsylvania, and which it was suggested might well be carried on in other cities has been a series of illustrated lectures by nature specialists, conservation leaders and world travelers. A large number of the persons who have contributed to this feature have been residents of the city.

Inter-Playground Activities and City-Wide Events

The questions, "What are the inter-playground activities which have proved best through the years?" and "What is the best program for city-wide events in a recreation system?" elicited considerable discussion and seemed to be very closely related in the minds of the executives who took part. In introducing the first question, Miss Sophie Fishback of Lakewood, Ohio, pointed out that competition was an important factor in

determining the answer. Different local conditions and experiences influence the decision which should be reached by an individual city. In Lakewood inter-playground drama tournaments and inter-playground competition in handcraft have been discontinued from the program. Soft ball competition between playgrounds, on the other hand, has proved satisfactory, though special attention must be paid to age classifications and to the appointment of neutral officials. An annual inter-playground track meet and a gymnasium meet have also proved satisfactory in Lakewood.

A. E. Genter of Pontiac, Michigan, in discussing city-wide events, raised a number of questions such as whether city-wide events were valuable, who should participate, whether such events should be conducted only by public departments or jointly by public and private agencies, what age groups should take part, and whether the values and publicity resulting from such events are worth the cost and effort required to conduct them.

The reported local experiences with inter-playground activities and city-wide events were so varied as to suggest that local conditions are an important factor in determining the answers to the questions relating to them. The distance between playgrounds, necessitating the provision of transportation and of adult supervision in the case of children's groups, was mentioned as an important factor in limiting inter-playground activities. In some cities natural neighborhood districts are used as a basis for such activities. Problems of discipline and sportsmanship were cited as a reason for discontinuing them, whereas the values of inter-playground competition in terms of play standards and sportsmanship were emphasized as reasons for such activities. Athletic competition can be overdone and needs careful direction, but inter-playground competition, even in dramatics, was urged because of its potential values.

The question as to how to meet the contention of municipal officials and others that only local workers, even though not qualified, can be employed for important positions of local leadership in recreation was discussed by Miss Esther Fitzgerald of Utica, New York. Much depends upon the individual city, and to some extent upon

"The general impression of the recreation executives' meeting was that an earnest group of competent men and women were thoroughly aware of the changing demands of the new day, were making every effort to participate co-operatively with all the other social forces and especially the new factors among these new forces in an attempt to serve, with all the available community resources, the growing recreational needs of their communities."

the length of time the program has been established, in determining whether qualified people can be employed from outside the city. People will be brought to realize the importance of qualifications when they have seen qualified people on the job. It has been found valuable to secure the help of parent-teacher associations, service clubs and other citizens' groups in demanding trained recreation leadership. One executive suggested that the argument for the employment of local persons might be met by pointing out that such a ruling applied elsewhere prevents local people from securing employment in other cities.

A definite trend was noted toward the employment of local people as playground leaders and for other subordinate positions. Recreation executives must be prepared to train them for effective service. The problem of adequate training is especially difficult in smaller communities without an experienced executive and it was suggested that larger cities should invite staff workers from smaller nearby communities to participate in their training courses for workers.

Backyards, Neighborhood and Vacant Lots

Present conditions make it highly important that recreation authorities plan a program of expansion and use of all available play spaces, public and private, in the community, in order to adequately provide for the increasing numbers seeking leisure time activity. Further evidence of this need was pointed out by Allen T. Edmunds of Amsterdam, New York. Leisure time needs are expanding while the community provision for leisure time services in some cities is contracting. Equipment, instruction and all facilities connected with sports in city recreation areas are generally inadequate. Restricted financial support from both public and private sources has caused most of the inadequacies, and both public and private agencies have suffered further drastic budget cuts which have resulted in the further curtailment of services and in the overwork of personnel.

Following are some of the methods suggested by Mr. Edmunds in securing more effective use of backyards: Educational campaigns, utilizing all forms of publicity; preparation of bulletins on backyard games; designing plans for homemade apparatus; conducting poster contests in the schools; using the relief workers for service in home recreation; conducting short institutes for parents; and backyard playground contests.

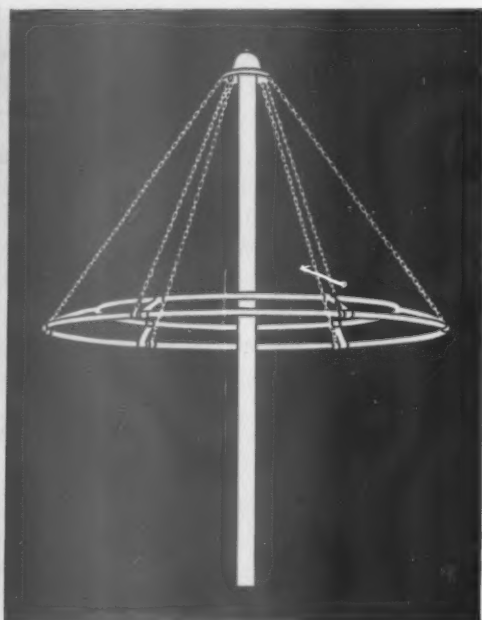
Emphasis was laid upon the importance of making plans to assure adequate and proper provision for needed recreation areas. Such planning involves the cooperation of city planning agencies, boards of education, housing authorities, parent-teacher associations, churches and other agencies. Since the acquisition and development of such areas and facilities involve considerable expenditure, it was pointed out that the general education of the public on the need for them is of primary importance and also on the need for trained, competent and continuous leadership of a high character.

Fees and Charges

Considerable interest was evidenced in the questions relating to methods of meeting the demand for larger income through additional fees and charges and the possible results from such a policy. "There is much truth in the saying that what is free does not have the value that comes when one has made a sacrifice. We are getting too many things free," said E. K. Thomas of Providence, Rhode Island. In his opinion areas and facilities should be provided from government funds but the operation of these facilities should be met to a considerable extent through fees and charges for their use. Special services should be paid for by those who receive them. Not alone does Mr. Thomas believe that this principle applies to the field of recreation but he expressed the opinion that even education beyond the grammar school might well be paid for by the persons benefited.

Different results from levying fees for the use of facilities were reported. In Detroit, where tennis courts were formerly used without charge, they tried the experiment of charging for the use of the courts. The result was that there was a 70% decrease in the amount of tennis played. In other words, "the amount of money collected was just sufficient to pay the man who sat around to see that people did not play." The advisability of such a procedure at this time when so many citizens are out of work and are unable to pay for their recreation was seriously questioned.

On the other hand, experiences reported in other cities indicated that the charging of moderate fees had not decreased participation and at the same time had made it possible to maintain facilities in good condition. In St. Petersburg, Florida, for example, groups have been organized according to interest, and membership fees vary



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from \$3 to \$10 per year. Income from these groups not only covers all operating expenses but in some cases has built new facilities. The same results might not be secured in other cities, however, as in St. Petersburg where facilities are used to a large extent by tourists.

The suggestion was made that in cities where facilities are used by large numbers of persons living outside the city, permits might be granted to local residents and charges be levied on the use of facilities by non-residents.

Responsibility for Players' Injuries

James S. Stevens of Greenwich, Connecticut, offered a number of suggestions as to the extent to which recreation departments should be responsible for injuries to players under their supervision. He pointed out that this responsibility depends upon state and local legislation. A recreation executive should find out whether recreation in his city is considered by the courts a governmental or proprietary function. He should secure from the city attorney a definite ruling on the question of the city's responsibility for injuries. The public and also workers in the department should be informed as to the department's legal responsibility in this matter. Reference was made to the valuable information in a report available from the National Recreation Association. (*Governmental and Proprietary Functions*. Price \$.50.).

Definite reports should be made of all injuries, indicating the first aid treatment given and the disposition of the case. Such reports should be made available to legal authorities. Regardless of the legal responsibility, recreation departments have a moral responsibility which must not be overlooked. Workers should be impressed with the obligation which rests upon them for preventing accidents. Activities which are too dangerous must be avoided. A definite program for the treatment of injuries is essential. It was pointed out that there is a danger to a recreation department in assuming a moral responsibility in that it may increase the demands made upon it in case of accidents.

Recreation As a Socially Useful Field of Employment

(Continued from page 374)

see, the steady fruition of these high aims and ideals which are so much needed in this country of ours today.

The Art of Abundant Living

(Continued from page 365)

help people to find abundant life, not in anesthetic recreation that opiates fatigue and worry, nor in a superimposed program of routine physical activity, nor in shoddy arts and crafts, nor in musical and dramatic activities that are just time-consuming. Recreational leadership is not, in the future, to be confined to places—to parks or playgrounds or schools or community centers; nor is it to be confined to agencies—to school boards, or park or recreation boards; or to recreation leaders. Only those will be leaders in the recreation movement of the future who can really help men and women and children to find for themselves the interests that will help them to grow, to live and to enjoy—who will bring them into fruitful opportunities for development and for progress in skills, who can make the ideals of excellence in music, in drama, the graphic and plastic arts, games and sports, social relations, enjoyment of nature and all the rest, so winning and so attractive that there shall be constant temptation to move on toward the better and the best, who shall know that in routine and in set programs and in schedules of activity there are, to be sure, sometimes genuine helps, but sometimes only obstacles, and that these are only stepping stones and starting places from which interesting life can begin. The challenge to those who are today in the forefront of what we know as the recreation movement is basic and acute. Can they, in these new days and with the new set of facts today, make the adjustments in organization and service through which age-old human nature can as never before be helped to live abundantly?

Centers for Unemployed in Toledo—The Division of Recreation of Toledo, Ohio, during the past winter has operated two centers for the unemployed. One is in a large building with auditorium and smaller rooms formerly used as a music conservatory, where activities are largely dramatic, including the making of scenery and costumes. Repairs to the building were made through C.W.A.; the Division of Recreation is supplying light, heat and janitor service. Thirteen leaders were furnished by C. W. A. The second center is a former medical school building. Here gymnasium classes, boxing, wrestling, tap dancing and other activities make up the program. A number of C.W. A. workers are providing leadership.



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Re-11-34

The Christmas Play for Everyone

(Continued from page 376)

of games appropriate to the occasion. Womans Press, 50¢.

The Pampered Darling by Beatrice McNeil. Six men, two young boys, three women. Excellent for young people of 15 or 16. When Victor Gibbons learns that his two older sisters are going away for Christmas, leaving him behind, he writes a note stating that he has suddenly become deaf and dumb. They are alarmed and shower him with attention. His ills are quickly cured when Janet's fiance, a young medical student, suggests an immediate operation. Walter H. Baker Company. 35¢.

Santa At Sea by Yale and Eldridge. Six principals and extras. Santa meets with an accident and is picked up at sea. A novel cantata for community entertainments or Sunday School. Especially useful when the Christmas tree is featured and small gifts are given to children in the audience. Eldridge Entertainment House. 40¢.

The Christmas Jest by Frances Gillespy Wickes. From twelve to fifteen children may participate, one small boy. Especially recommended for 15 or 16 year old boys and girls. A medieval play in which the king changes places with his jester on Christmas Eve and learns a lesson from the court fool. In *A Child's Book of Holiday Plays*. The Macmillan Company, 66 Fifth Avenue, New York City. 80¢.

The Snowman by Elsa Beskow. Seven children, one adult. A Swedish Christmas play. The story of a miser and what happened to him when he fell asleep on the doorstep of his neighbor's house. A delightful and authentic atmosphere of Swedish fairy lore distinguishes this play by one of the most noted of Swedish writers. Walter H. Baker Company. 35¢.

Home for the Holidays by A. W. Norton. Twenty-three characters and extras. A community Christmas play with much humor and some pathos. Penn Publishing Company, 925 Filbert Street, Philadelphia. 25¢.

For experienced groups the following plays are recommended:

The Christmas Child Comes In by Katharine Kester. Two acts. Large cast. Old Trail Town resolves not to keep Christmas, as it is an unnecessary expense. But at heart the people want to celebrate and seize on the coming of a child to a neighbor's house as a just cause for celebration. Walter H. Baker Company, 35¢. Royalty \$5.00.

The Lighting of the Christmas Tree by Josephine Palmer and Annie L. Thorp. Three men, two women, two little boys. A beautiful legendary play based on the story by Selma Lagerlof. Olga fears to take an old musician, a friend of her husband, into her home because he is a drunkard but learns to value his art and his essentially fine nature. Samuel French, 25 West 45th Street, New York City. 35¢. Royalty \$5.00.

A Painting for the Duchess by Marion Holbrook. Four men, six women, six children, extras if desired. Basil, a young painter, defies his patroness, the Duchess, and is saved from ruin by a miracle. When the cruel woman demands the picture he has not painted, the canvas is uncovered and a painting of the Madonna is miraculously revealed. Dramatic Publishing Company. 35¢. No royalty when ten copies are purchased.

Summaries of Discussion Group Meetings

(Continued from page 392)

representatives came out of those long sessions with clearer understanding of the strategy of the game of team play between the home neighborhoods and their national government agents.

Turning attention then to the techniques of building more effective machinery for harnessing neighborhood effort, the matter of organization of community effort and of deeper local study and strategy was explored. Programs were scrutinized, activities debated, extensions to the home and the home yard were given some attention.

A new motivation of human endeavor—being, doing and thinking—leaped into the ascendant and unconscious of its significance we switched our allegiance from King Croesus to Prophet Aristotle. Where shall this new youth now crowding the wings of our stage find freedom, with the sky the limit? Not in the regimented controls of a career of accumulating wealth of possessions, but rather in a career of accumulating treasure of the spirit. The career of the Edison, the Lindbergh, the Darwin, the Christopher Wren or the Pasteur becomes the new field of the cloth of gold, civilization's new arena of high adventure. We are moving as a people in common rhythm and straightened ranks, toward a new social conquest—a conquest of the art of living.

NOTE: The remaining summaries will appear in the December issue.

A Children's Christmas Party

(Continued from page 393)

only the Christmas tree lighted. The distribution of oranges and candy concludes the program.

A troop of Boy Scouts aids the department and Santa in giving out the oranges and candy. Regretful that the party is over, yet thrilled, the children leave for their respective homes and institutions eagerly awaiting the arrival of the next Christmas season and what the Department of Public Recreation has in store for them.

The whole affair is financed quietly through a letter appeal signed by the President of the Recreation Board and sent to fifty well-to-do citizens. We always receive plenty of money to carry out our plans each year.

NOTE: This is only one type of program suggested for a children's Christmas party. Others may be secured by writing to the author of this article and including 10¢ for postage and mimeographing.



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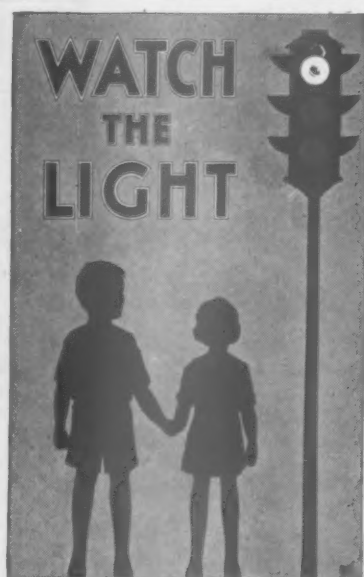
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A New Recreation Center in Rayville, Louisiana — The recreation center developed in Rayville, Louisiana, was the seat of the old Richland Parish fair grounds of forty acres which have been purchased by the Richland Parish Public Recreation Department for \$2,400 on a self-liquidating basis, interest deferred for three years and payments divided over a twenty year period. The City of Rayville contributed \$250 and Richland Parish \$500 toward the initial cost of materials. The R. F. C. provided the labor for construction.

Pontiac's Summer Play Program—Attendance at the play program provided by the City Recreation Department during the summer months reached the highest peak since the organization of the department in 1922. During June, July and August a total attendance of 234,924 people was reported at all the activities conducted. This total for the summer months showed an increase of 28% over the entire attendance registered for all of last year. F.E.R.A. funds provided thirty-one leaders, in addition to thirty workers paid from city funds.



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Magazines and Pamphlets

Recently Received Containing Articles
of Interest to the Recreation Worker

MAGAZINES

- The Epworth Highroad*, September 1934
A Moving Day Party, by Lynn Rohrbough
- The Journal of Health and Physical Education*,
September 1934
A New Course on Hobbies—an Editorial
A Report on the National Study of Professional
Education in Health and Physical Education, by
N. P. Neilson
The Game of American Ball
- The Journal of Health and Physical Education*,
October 1934
American Country Dances from Alabama to Ar-
kansas, collected by Edythe E. Saylor
The Game of Lacrosse, by Joseph Shacter
Simball
Faculty Recreation Committee
- Physical Education, Health and Recreation Digest*,
October 1934
A Playground Health Education Program, by Floyd
A. Rowe
Adult Education for Leisure, by William W. Biddle
The Responsibility of Public Agencies in Providing
for Leisure-Time Activities, by William G.
Robinson
Leisure and Small Town Youth, by Ella Gardner
Educational Uses of Play Programs, by Carrol D.
Champlin
- American Forests*, October 1934
The Great Smoky Mountains Park, by Carlos C.
Campbell
- The American City*, October 1934
New Jobs in the Recreation Field—The Springfield
Recreation Project, by Elizabeth S. Moquin
A Country Park for City Dwellers—and Others
- The National Parent-Teacher Magazine*, October 1934
A Party for Hallowe'en, by Sophia Yarnall
Conservation of Recreation, by Catheryne Cooke
Gilman

PAMPHLETS

- Wisconsin Reading Circle Annual 1934-1935*; issued by
the State Reading Circle Board, M. H. Jackson, Sec-
retary, State Department of Public Instruction, Mad-
ison, Wisconsin
- Fifth Annual Report of the Recreation Commission*,
Amsterdam, New York, 1933
- National Negro Health Week Report*
National Negro Health News, Volume 2, Number 2,
U. S. Public Health Service, Washington, D. C.
- Games of Many Lands*
A four page mimeographed bulletin issued by the Na-
tional Council for Prevention of War, 532 Seven-
teenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.
- Public Recreation—Oakland, California*
A thirty-two page illustrated report of the Board of
Playground Directors for 1933-1934

Have You A Set of Guides?

Publications compiled by the RULES AND EDITORIAL COMMITTEE
WOMEN'S ATHLETIC SECTION, AMERICAN PHYSICAL
EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Official Playing Rules for Girls' and Women's Sports

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|-------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Field Hockey and Lacrosse | No. 38-R | Jane Shurmer, University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, Pa. Betty Cadbury, Germantown, Pennsylvania. |
| Soccer | No. 116-R | Laura Huelster, University of Illinois, Urbana. Laura Huelster, University of Illinois, Urbana. |
| Field Ball | | |
| Speed Ball | | Dorice Myers, George Washington High School, Los Angeles, Calif. |
| Basketball and Officials' Rating | No. 121-R | Marie Simes, Notre Dame of Maryland, Baltimore. Marjorie Hillas, Teachers College, Columbia University, N. Y. C. |
| Water Sports | No. 125-R | Marjorie Camp, University of Iowa, Iowa City. |
| Winter Sports and Outing Clubs | No. 124-R | Harriet Aull, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. |
| Baseball | No. 17-R | Margaret Meyer, University of Wisconsin, Madison. |
| Athletic Handbook Athletic Games | No. 115-R | Theresa Anderson, North High School, Des Moines, Iowa. Amy Howland, Public Schools, Mount Vernon, N. Y. |
| Track and Field | | |
| Volley Ball | | Mora Crossman, Playground Ath- letic League, Baltimore, Md. |

New Committees and Chairmen

(no publications)

| | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Individual Sports | Eleanor Schroeder, Wellesley Col- lege, Wellesley. |
| Golf, Tennis, Archery | |
| Motion Pictures | Gladys Palmer, Ohio State Uni- versity, Columbus. |

Order Guides by number from Local Dealers in Athletic Goods or

AMERICAN SPORTS PUBLISHING CO.

105 Nassau Street, New York City

A Swimming Pool for Salem—More than 30,000 people attended the dedication of the mammoth outdoor salt water swimming pool in Salem, Massachusetts, known as the J. C. B. Smith Memorial Swimming Pool. The pool, built on unsightly mud flats, has a water surface across of 9½ acres, and is 700 feet long and 600 feet wide. The average depth of water is 8 feet with a special shallow area for little children. Beneath the 30 foot diving tower and 10 meter diving board the water will have a depth of 18 feet. The ocean is separated from the pool by a dam of sheet steel piling 9½ feet high. On the other three sides it is bounded by beautifully landscaped terraces. Beaches along the retaining wall of the causeway and in front of the spacious bath house provide a large space for spectators and bathers. The pool was constructed at a cost of nearly \$300,000 by government funds aided by a bequest from the Smith estate.

New Publications in the Leisure Time Field

Homemade Games

By Arthur H. Lawson. J. B. Lippincott Company, Philadelphia, Pa., \$2.00.

"**H**OMEMADE GAMES" is an especially timely book for these days when we have little money and lots of time to spend. It is the perfect recipe for the father who likes to putter around the cellar workshop with his son, or the crafts teacher who must turn out something useful because his budget is limited, or for the person who wants to make something which is his very own because he has made every bit of it from start to finish.

Skillful drawings show step by step how the games are made and what they look like when they are finished. The games are well selected, including most of the better known games, such as Table Tennis, Paddle Tennis, Shuffleboard, Box Hockey and Tether Ball, as well as such less known games as Buzz Ball, Cockamaroo, Halma and Nine Men's Morris. A number of games have unique adaptations which the author has originated. Exo and Black Diamond are ingenious variations of the well known game of Bull Board. Fortyniner, the object of which is to "stake out your claim before the other fellow beats you to it," is an exciting board game for two players which harks back to the gold-panning days of '49.

The book, which includes directions for building and for playing games for both indoors and outdoors, is distinguished by the clear and informal manner in which it is written. A glossary of wood-workers' terms defines unfamiliar words for the amateur and a well arranged index of games and games equipment adds greatly to its usefulness. There is a foreword by Angelo Patri.

American City Annual—1933-34

Edited by Harlean James. American City Association, 901 Union Trust Building, Washington, D. C., \$3.00.

THE FIFTH SUCCESSOR to the initial volume appearing in 1929, this Annual will be of interest to all who are working for the preservation, protection and improvement of the scenic and recreational assets of America. Each year the Annual considers a new range of topics. This year the summary emphasizes the scope of such government enterprises as the Tennessee Valley Authority, the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Public Works Administration and others dealing with physical planning. The outstanding projects of the federal government for the planned utilization of the natural resources of the country are interpreted by experts who are close to administrative centers. Original articles by civic workers, landscape architects, city planners and engineering specialists are grouped under the following heads: The Nation, Regional Planning, In the States and In the Cities and Towns.

"Kit" 37

Edited by Lynn and Katherine Rohrbough. Published by Lynn Rohrbough, Delaware, Ohio. \$25.

"**K**IT" 37 is a particularly interesting issue devoted to traditional games and puzzle-making. There are, too, equipment notes suggesting some homemade games.

One Act Plays for Women

Selected by A. P. Sanford. Dodd, Mead & Company, New York. \$2.50.

THERE HAS LONG been a need for such a compilation as Mr. Sanford has presented in *One Act Plays for Women*. This collection contains more than a dozen one act plays presenting an interesting variety from which to choose. The costuming and scenery in each case are simple and inexpensive.

Easy Blackouts

Fitzgerald Publishing Corporation, New York. \$50.

THIS COLLECTION of short comedy sketches by various authors will help fill the ever present need for skits which are so popular today. Amateur groups of all kinds will find this collection of eighteen sketches exceedingly valuable. Such groups may produce the sketches without payment of royalty provided at least two copies of the printed book have been purchased.

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